

PUBLIC HEALTH

IN



SOUTH EAST ESSEX

1972

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts
of Canvey Island, Benfleet and Rayleigh, and the Rural District of
Rochford.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1972

Telephone:
RAYLEIGH 6101

Public Health Department,
134 High Street,
Rayleigh, Essex. SS6 7BX.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Councils of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and
the Rural District of Rochford

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1972 was not an unhealthy year. It is almost impossible to ensure pure air for any community but the daily sampling carried out showed that the smoke and sulphur dioxide in South East Essex air was not seriously high at any time and was only noticeable in the winter months. The Oil Refineries adjacent to Canvey Island on the shore of the Thurrock Urban District constituted a theoretical hazard, but the output of smell and smuts from these Refineries has been very greatly reduced and it is hoped that the introduction of more efficient and effective refining processes will reduce them further. There is no serious pollution of the atmosphere in South East Essex by industry and for any further improvement we will have to look at the domestic chimneys. It would be well worthwhile for the new Local Government Authorities to consider phased smoke control area programmes. The cost of conversions would not now be considerable and it should be quite possible to make Castle Point and Rochford smoke free within five years.

Some problems arose at ground level in the Barling area of the Rochford Rural District. The Southend Corporation has, in this area, a farm which they use for land treatment of liquid sludge, the sludge being pumped over from the Sewage Works in Southend. For some years this was farmed by the Home Office. Recently they found their crops unsatisfactory, and investigation showed the sludge to have an unduly high content of heavy metals. The Home Office, therefore, ended its tenancy and the question of further use of the farm had to be considered. Certain areas of the farm had a high content of sludge and therefore of heavy metals, but these were both some distance from the road and from the footpath through the farm to the river, which is a Public Right of Way. It was, therefore, not considered necessary to close the farm to this public access or to erect 'Danger' notices. It has been considered wise, however, that the Southend Corporation use the farm not for ordinary agricultural purposes but for some other purpose such as arboriculture.

The late summer and autumn were very dry and dry weather has its hazards. The Rochford Reservoir, Bradley Way, Rochford, which drains into the River Crouch, is fed by the Rayleigh Brook. One part of the land which drains into the Rayleigh Brook in Rayleigh is an area of land used for sedimentation (land treatment) for the effluent from the Rayleigh Eastern Sewage Works. Normally such effluent as spills over into

the Rayleigh Brook is well diluted by brook water and rain water, but during this dry period the Brook proper almost dried up and Rayleigh Brook became, for a time a stream of effluent. On the 24th October, 1972, dead and dying fish were found floating on the surface of the reservoir. The Brook was cut off and pumping by four 4" pumps was started, the object being to circulate the water in order to increase the oxygen content. Pumping went on for three days and thereafter live fish were seen in the reservoir. Samples taken from the water of the reservoir showed it to be reasonably free of pollution by mid November.

Apart from its absence of adequate fluoride, which has distressed me for many years, the water supplied to South East Essex proved unsatisfactory in another respects in the summer and early autumn of 1972. Residents of Rayleigh, Rochford and Benfleet found in their tap water midge larvae. The Essex Water Company went to heroic lengths subsequently to try to eradicate these pests from their pipes and were driven eventually to experiment with an insecticide toxic to insects and fish, but nevertheless safe for human consumption. It seems probable that adequate treatment with this insecticide will eventually free the water distribution system from infestation.

Infectious disease did not take a serious toll in 1972, measles and rubella (german measles) being the most common diseases noticed. Rubella is not notifiable but 142 children were reported as being absent from school with this disease. There were 408 cases of measles and although this represents less than 20% of a single years' births, it is more than I would regard as absolutely unavoidable. Though exceptionally mild cases of measles do occur in children vaccinated against Measles, the majority of these cases were in unvaccinated children. Gastro-enteritis and food poisoning did not represent a serious problem within South East Essex, but a number of children developed gastro-enteritis which seems likely to have been due to salmonellosis while on an educational cruise in the Mediterranean. It does seem possible that the unremitting efforts of the Public Health Inspectors is reducing the incidence of food poisoning and improving food handling practices in shops and restaurants. A very useful contribution is made by the Food Handlers Course which we run jointly with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. The Course, which follows the syllabus of the Royal Society of Health for the Certificate in the Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering, ran from September - November 1972, and was the eighth in the present series. 26 candidates entered the examination and 23 passed. For convenience the Course is held at the Southend College of Technology and the panel of lecturers is drawn from the medical and public health staffs of both the Southend Corporation and the four District Councils in South East Essex plus the Bacteriologist from the Southend Public Health Laboratory. The lectures are given over a period of eight weeks with sessions on Monday evenings, except the second and revision lectures which are held on a Tuesday. The Test is held in the final week on Thursday evening. Since the Courses began in January 1968 250 candidates have sat the examination and 200 have passed.

The decline in the incidence of tuberculosis now seems to have halted. The notification rate is markedly less than in 1970, but between the 1971/72 figures there is no significant difference.

The Composite Public Health Committee sought to encourage water safety. Badges were issued to children who had reached the stage of swimming 25 metres and a framed photograph was given to the best school - Kents Hill Junior, Benfleet. Saturday afternoon classes for parents in swimming were arranged at the baths of the Sewyne Comprehensive School, Rayleigh. These were arranged so that adults who could not swim could learn together in the absence of their children and friends without embarrassment. There was a good response and 50 parents learnt to swim successfully during the period.

The efforts of the South East Essex Home Safety Committee continued unabated. Apart from a number of talks to voluntary groups on the subject, their programme included a Home Safety Week in September and a Poster Competition, run in conjunction with the Essex Home Safety Liaison Committee, which proved very successful. The study of death statistics shows that the rate of deaths from home accidents per 10,000 population in South East Essex is about half of that in England and Wales as a whole. Some part of this difference, I am sure, is due to the work that has been put in by the Home Safety Committee over the past six years. A brief report by the Hon. Secretary of the Committee is shown at Appendix 'C'.

Our efforts to warn South East Essex citizens on the hazards of smoking have proved less successful. Death rates for cancer of the lung and bronchus are not markedly below national rates. Death rates from ischaemic heart disease are above national rates. Despite relatively clean air, and the absence of dusty industry, there are a considerable number of deaths from bronchitis, though the death rate is below the national rate. However, we continue to offer help to those who are intellectually convinced while remaining chemically and psychologically addicted. Relatively successful Five Day Clinics were held for these unfortunates at Canvey Island and Rayleigh and more than a third of those attending were completely freed from their addiction, while another third managed to reduce the hazards to their lungs by a considerable reduction in cigarette consumption.

Preparations for reorganisation of both Local Government and the National Health Service took up a good deal of time during 1972. The Local Government Act received the Royal Assent and it was determined, in due course, that there should be two Local Government Districts which would replace the present Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford. It was determined that the western district should include the areas of the present Urban Districts of Benfleet and Canvey Island and the eastern district those of the Rayleigh Urban District and Rochford Rural District.

Liaison Committees were set up and the officers of the four districts worked hard to harmonise their several activities, and prepared useful reports for their respective Liaison Committees. I am sure that the analyses which have been carried out will be of much help to the members and officers of the new District Councils. At National level a Working Party on Collaboration between Local Government and the reorganised National Health Service decided that complete withdrawal of regular

medical advice from Local Government would be unwise and recommended that the new District Community Physicians of the National Health Service be appointed in collaboration with the Local Government District Councils and be appointed by those Councils as proper officers for the control of infectious disease and as medical advisers. It seems that this recommendation has been accepted by National and Local Government and that it will, in due course, be carried into effect.

1972 then was a year of transition. There were local changes which impinged on your health services. Dr. E.E. Hodgson resigned her post as Deputy Medical Officer of Health on the 31st January to go to West Dorset as Medical Officer of Health. Dr. J. Buchanan succeeded her as Deputy Medical Officer of Health on the 1st March.

Mass X-Ray Unit 6C of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board ended its service to Essex at the end of March and from then on the only mobile chest x-ray service available in this area was in central Southend where Unit 6A now pays a monthly visit.

1972 was also a settling down year for the reorganised social services of the County Council now combined in a comprehensive Social Service Department. Continuing change therefore during 1972, but not decay. I am hopeful that the changes begun and continuing will be for the better and that, in due course, in 1974 new Local Government Authorities and a new National Health Service will be able to build strongly on the firm foundations laid during the past 20 years or so.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. A. SMYTH

Medical Officer of Health

January, 1974.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health:	D.A. Smyth, M.B. , M.F.C.M. , F.R.S.H. (Also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, South-East Essex).
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	E. Eileen Hodgson, M.B. , Ch. B. , D.P.H. (Also Departmental Medical Officer, Essex County Council). (resigned 31st Jan. 1972) Jean Buchanan, M.B. , Ch. B. , D.P.H. (Also Departmental Medical Officer, Essex County Council). (appointed 1st Mar. 1972)
Health Education Officer:	Miss E. Stevenson, S.R.N. , S.C.M. , H.V. , F.W.I. , M.G.H.E. , M.I.H.E.
Administrative Assistant:	R. F. Stripp
Clerical Staff :	Mrs. P.A. Hase Mrs. P. Thomas (resigned 30th April, 1972) Miss V. Bragg (appointed 1st May, 1972)

CANVEY ISLAND U.D.

Chief Public Health Inspector:	A.P.J. Cook, M.A.P.H.I. , F.R.S.H. , M.R.I.P.H. & H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:	F. Ritson, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector:	P. Hilton M.A.P.H.I.
Pupil Public Health Inspector:	T.P. Quinn
Clerical Staff:	Mrs. W. Edwards Mrs. E. Stratford

BENFLEET U.D.

Chief Public Health Inspector:	J.E. Gilbert, M.A.P.H.I. , M.R.S.H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:	P. Sanders, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspectors:	A.F. Knuckey, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 30. 9. 72) N. Pantling, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 9. 2. 72.) Miss L. Watson, M.A.P.H.I. (apptd 17. 7. 72)
Authorised Meat Inspector:	R. Spellman
Pupil Public Health Inspectors:	Miss L. Watson (resigned 16th July, 1972) Miss D. Drury
Clerical Staff:	P. Fowles

RAYLEIGH U. D.

Senior Public Health Inspector :	E. H. Lloyd, M. A. P. H. I. , M. R. S. H. , (Retired 8th October, 1972)
Acting/Senior Public Health Inspector:	E. D. Long, M. A. P. H. I. , M. R. S. H. (Appointed 1st October, 1972)
Public Health Inspector :	E. D. Long, M. A. P. H. I. , M. R. S. H. (until 30th September, 1972) A. F. Knuckey, M. A. P. H. I. , M. R. S. H. (Appointed 1st October, 1972)
Technical Assistant :	D. Britt
Clerical Staff	Mrs. M. Furness Mrs. C. Podgrift (Part-time)

ROCHFORD R. D.

Chief Public Health Inspector:	H. Jepson, M. A. P. H. I. , M. R. S. H.
Senior Public Health Inspector:	J. R. Bullock, M. A. P. H. I.
Public Health Inspector:	C. W. Riley, M. A. P. H. I. (Commenced 3rd July, 1972)
Pupil Public Health Inspector:	S. J. Neville (appointed 2nd June, 1972)
Clerical Staff:	Mrs. Z. Sargent (transferred to Clerk's Dept. 15th April, 1972)

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CANVEY ISLAND U. D. C.

Councillor J. W. Bowden
Councillor R. S. Ives (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor F. P. Wood

BENFLEET U. D. C.

Councillor Mrs. E. D. Gallienne
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Willis
Councillor L. A. Laffan

RAYLEIGH U. D. C.

Councillor Mrs. F. E. Clayton
Councillor Mrs. D. S. Hawtree
Councillor L. K. Cope

ROCHFORD R. D. C.

Councillor Miss E. M. Leggatt (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. J. K. Robson
Councillor J. R. Warner

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

R. S. Ives, (Chairman)

D. E. Allen (Chairman of Council)

W. H. Balch

G. W. Blackwell

J. W. Bowden (Vice Chairman)

A. Ingold

Mrs. D. E. Shaw

F. P. Wood

LOCAL

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	4,421
Number of habitable houses	..	..	..	..	10,617
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	10,466
Population (1971 Census)	..	..	..	..	26,462
Population (mid year revised estimate 1972)					28,170
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1973					£1,074,117
Sum represented by a Penny Rate as at 31st					
March, 1973	..	..	..	..	£10,478
New assessment at 1st April, 1973					
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£3,329,921
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£34,750

VITAL

STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	England and Wales
Total live births	322	287	609	21.6 (17.7)*	14.8
Total deaths	144	123	267	9.5 (11.7)*	12.1
				Rate per 1,000 live births	
Illegitimate births	19	9	28	46.0	
Infant deaths	5	3	8	13.1	17.0
Neonatal deaths	4	4	6	9.9	12.0
				Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	
Stillbirths	2	6	8	13.0	12.0
Perinatal Mortality	6	8	14	22.7	22.0

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

Note: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.82 and Deaths 1.23

* Local Adjusted Rate.

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	2	9
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	19	5	24
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	2	1	3
Other malignant neoplasms	4	7	11
Diabetes mellitus	1	4	5
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	2	1	3
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	1	3
Hypertensive disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	35	28	63
Other forms of heart disease	5	5	10
Cerebrovascular disease	17	28	45
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	4	11
Pneumonia	7	5	12
Bronchitis and emphysema	11	2	13
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	3
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	2	2	4
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	1	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	3	2	5
All other external causes	-	1	1
TOTALS	144	123	267

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1972

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	5	3	8
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 and under 15	1	-	1
15 and under 25	-	-	-
25 and under 35	2	-	2
35 and under 45	2	3	5
45 and under 55	7	8	15
55 and under 65	24	16	40
65 and under 75	41	26	67
75 and upwards	61	67	128
	144	123	267

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The death rate was low and the birth rate high. With a high birth rate sometimes comes a high infant mortality, but the infant mortality, at 13.1, is below the national rate. It will be seen that after 12 months the risk to life is fairly steady and slight until 25 years of age. After 25 years of age there is an increasing risk of death until at 45 the risk becomes appreciable. The gradient becomes steeper as life goes on and deaths between 55 and 65 are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times those between 45 and 55. Deaths between 65 and 75 are something over $1\frac{1}{2}$ times those between 55 and 65 and deaths over the age of 75 are just over twice those between 65 and 75. On Canvey Island the death rate from cancer of the respiratory system is about 50% above the national rate. Deaths from pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema, and other diseases of the respiratory system, on the other hand, occurred markedly below national rates. Deaths from ischaemic heart disease are high, the death rate being about twice the national rate. The death rate from cerebrovascular disease, which is the other main killer, occurred at about the national rate. There was only one motor vehicle accident death but unless the deaths from all other accidents include deaths from industrial accident, I must conclude that the home accident death rate on Canvey Island was about level with the national rate.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

A number of elderly people were either referred to or sought the help of the Department during the year, mostly in respect of their housing need. With regard to aged persons who are brought to notice from time to time as possibly being in need of care and attention and who refuse to leave their own home, I am pleased to say that no action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 became necessary at Canvey Island during the year.

The South East Essex Home Safety Committee investigated and provided assistance in the bathroom for 8 elderly people on Canvey Island during 1972, details of equipment supplied being as follows :

Economic Bath Safety Rail	..	2
Economic Bath Safety Seat	..	1
Carter Bath Rail	..	1
No Slip Discs (sets)	..	4

Meals on Wheels

The organiser of the meals on wheels service at Canvey Island, Mrs. B. Wilson, of the W.R.V.S. has kindly furnished me with the following details of 1972:

A total of 6,600 meals were provided for the elderly of the district and all were delivered to private homes. Delivery was on two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). A charge of 9p per meal was made and a grant of £500 was received from the Local Authority (shared by District and County) to cover the difference between charge and cost. The average number of people who benefited from this very valuable service was eighty. Delivery of the meals, in proper containers to ensure retention of heat, was made by private cars with the help of a very few volunteers and one car provided by the Local Authority. Meals were provided through school kitchens and with the co-operation of the Divisional Executive and staff of Furtherwick Park School, meals are still being served throughout the school holidays. We are still needing volunteers. The majority of helpers are themselves pensioners.

Canvey Council of Social Services

The Secretary, Mr. W.P. Carey, has kindly provided me with the details as follows of his Council's activities for the elderly during 1972:

"An office has now been established at the Red Cross Hall, Larup Avenue, and is open for consultations 10-12 a. m. and 2-4 p. m. daily and Saturday by appointment.

Mrs. E. Rendall has continued to develop her Voluntary Visiting Group and now has 48 regular visitors. Reports are passed to the Social Services Department at Thundersley.

200 HELP cards have been issued to elderly handicapped persons and distribution continues via Old Age Pensioner clubs and the Council of Social Services. Buzzers, emitting a high pitched sound have also been issued and additional supplies have been ordered.

The day to day enquiries of a varied nature continue to flow into the office and these are handled with all expediency.

Future projects include the setting up of a workshop for the elderly."

Essex County Council Social Services Department

A report by the Area Social Work Organiser of the Social Services Department of the Essex County Council in respect of the Benfleet and Canvey Island areas is shown as Appendix "A".

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply was mainly lime/soda softened river water from the Hanningfield Works of the Essex Water Company which is alkaline in nature with a hardness of 140-150 mg. per litre. The fluoride content is low (0.2 to 0.3 mg per litre) and there is no evidence of plumbo solvency.

During 1972, the supply was supplemented by drawing 76,000,000 galls. from the Leighbeck and Holehaven wells. This water is very soft, saline, contains sodium bicarbonate and there is a moderately high fluoride content (1.8 to 2.3 mg. per litre).

During 1972, 636 new supplies were connected, 1,078 yards of main were laid and 150 yards abandoned.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Canvey Island is divided into a number of drainage areas. Within each area there is a gravity system with the sewers discharging at a Pumping Station where the sewage is pumped into a trunk sewer system which discharges at the Southwick Pumping Station.

From this main pumping station, the sewage is pumped to the Treatment Plant some 1,000 yards to the South. After progressing through the plant, the effluent is discharged by gravity into the River Thames. The Treatment Plant came into operation in 1966 and the required standard of 100 ppm suspended solids and 100 Biological oxygen Demand set by the Port of London Authority is regularly obtained. Although the surface water system for the District is separate, surface infiltration into the foul drainage system does occur and arrangements are made at the Works for the excess flow over three times dry weather flow to receive partial treatment.

The first phase of the scheme for sewerage the Winter Gardens area has been completed which provides sewers in Champlain Avenue, Central Avenue, Church Parade and Tabora Avenue. These provide facilities for the majority of existing properties in the area and will allow for new development. Phase two of the scheme was completed during the year. Completion of these schemes will leave the Sixty Acre Area, which is sparsely developed, as the only area without sewerage facilities. The Sixty Acre Area is scheduled for development not earlier than 1975 and will involve some re development and variation of the present pattern of layout. Drainage of this area will require the construction of a new pumping station.

In conjunction with the Essex River Authority certain limited storm water overflows were constructed during 1972.

Apart from the Sixty Acre Area, drainage arrangements at Canvey Island are considered to be reasonably satisfactory.

A night soil collection service is undertaken in the Winter Gardens and Sixty Acres area, which remain unsewered to date. The service is carried out under Contract, and is on a weekly basis.

The Essex River Authority report that no serious drainage difficulties were experienced on Canvey Island during the year apart from occasional surcharging of soil sewers during heavy storms.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse continues to increase, and during 1972 approximately 76,686 cubic yards of refuse was collected; the Special Purpose Bulk Refuse Vehicle has shown its worth in clearing larger household furniture, a service run free of charge.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 6,452 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1972:

Atmospheric pollution	..	..	..	244
Aged persons	..	..	..	8
Caravan sites etc.	..	..	..	61
Cleansing services	..	..	..	609
Drainage and sewerage	..	..	..	127
Food premises	..	..	..	281
Flooding and watercourses	..	..	..	42
Factories	..	..	..	53
Housing: Demolition procedure	..	..	..	441
Repairs	..	..	..	1,076
Improvement Grants/Housing act				51
Rehousing	..	..	..	83
Rent Act	..	..	..	3
Overcrowding	..	..	..	13
Houseboats	..	..	..	21
Icecream	..	..	..	9
Infectious disease and food poisoning			..	222
Methane/Petroleum	..	..	..	208
Meat and food inspection	..	..	..	83
Noise abatement	..	..	..	38
Nuisances	..	..	..	146
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act			..	284
Oil pollution	..	..	..	11
Pest control	..	..	..	196
Pet animals	..	..	..	15
Rats and mice	..	..	..	273
Swimming pools	..	..	..	23
Unclassified	..	..	..	1,660
Water supplies	..	..	..	15
Shops Act	..	..	..	9
Civic Amenties Act	..	..	..	130
Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act	..	..	..	17
				<hr/>
				6, 452
				<hr/>

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MESSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

The premises of the following chiropodist are licenced by the Essex County Council under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act 1933 :

P.H.Owens, 82 High Street, Canvey Island.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 89 premises registered and all use mechanical power. 53 inspections were made. The number of outworkers recorded is 24 all being engaged in manufacture of wearing apparel, apart from one worker on pot scourers and cork extractors. In all other respects there is a nil return under the prescribed table.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

244 visits and inspections were made during the year, a number of these arising from complaints which concerned emissions from outside the District. Where Refineries were concerned, excellent liaison arrangements already existing continue to operate well.

Smoke and sulphur-dioxide recordings are taken within the Urban District as part of the National Survey, with readings taken daily and submitted monthly to the Ministry of Technology at Warren Spring Laboratory.

The following is a summary of these observations :

	Smoke (micrograms per cubic metre)		SO ₂ (micrograms per cubic metre)		Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	
January	48	138	72	188	0.67
February	42	93	56	146	0.75
March	45	117	71	179	0.63
April	18	54	59	152	0.31
May	13	26	42	79	0.31
June	14	42	50	87	0.28
July	13	21	51	109	0.25
August	16	39	42	95	0.38
September	N	N	N	N	N
October	N	N	N	N	N
November	N	N	N	N	N
December	N	100	N	138	N

PETROLEUM AND METHANE STORAGE

Thirteen licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year and a total of 208 inspections were made. The inground storage of liquid methane continued using advance cryogenic engineering techniques. Three of the licences issued concerned three major installations.

Full details of the Methane Terminal and storage arrangements appeared in the 1971 Report as did the position to date of the proposed new oil refineries to be erected on Canvey Island. In respect of the later there were no final developments during 1972 but my 1973 Report will show the latest position.

Over the past years local residents have been concerned by reason of the malodours of an oily nature being carried by the prevailing south-westerly winds from the oil refineries west and south of Canvey Island. To some degree parts of Benfleet and Southend-on-Sea are affected, but Canvey Island is the area chiefly affected.

However, the refineries have fully co-operated with the Government Alkali Inspectorate, Factories Inspectorate and the Licensing Local Authorities over the years. These bodies, together with a special Sub-Committee set up through the Local Authorities' Association, meet annually at the Refineries to discuss complaints, proposals and new techniques to combat atmospheric pollution. To date these activities have met with marked success, a judgement being made by the number of complaints received over the years. From the records concerning Canvey Island over the past eighteen years, the largest number of complaints received was 73 in 1958 and the smallest number was 3 in 1963.

The table below shows complaints received in each of the 18 years :

1955 - 63	1961 - 30	1967 - 22
1956 - 45	1962 - 8	1968 - 8
1957 - 46	1963 - 3	1969 - 9
1958 - 73	1964 - 10	1970 - 9
1959 - 17	1965 - 7	1971 - 7
1960 - 18	1966 - 8	1972 - 14

PEST CONTROL

469 inspections were made during the year 273 being in respect of rats and mice. In view of the resistance to Warfarin being met in the control of mice, the use of this pesticide has been discontinued and replaced by alpha chloralose.

Trichlorephon has been used effectively against the Brown Tail Moth caterpillar throughout the season. One of the great attractions for the use of this insecticide is that it breaks down within 48 hours of application and is therefore less harmful to other species.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

During 1972, four licences were issued for the keeping of pets for sale under this Act.

SWIMMING POOLS

Breakpoint chlorination continues to be an extremely effective method of sterilisation and 23 inspections were made during the season to the five swimming pools in the District as follows :

Furtherwick Park School
Leigh Beck County Junior School
Newlands Holiday Camp
St. Joseph's R. C. Primary School
William Read County Junior School

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A total of 183 premises were registered with the Council at the end of the year, as follows :-

		<u>Number employed</u>	
Offices	35	160)	
Retail shops	132	462)	230 males
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2	51)	524 females
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	12	75)	
Fuel storage depots	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>)	
	183	754	

A total of 284 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

HOUSING

At the end of 1972 the Council owned and managed 1,542 units of accommodation 118 of which were flats. 1,504 of these properties are post-war. 386 were erected in conjunction with the then Dagenham and Walthamstow Authorities. During 1972, 74 Council dwellings were erected.

In respect of private development 487 dwellings were completed during the year and a further 627 properties were under construction on the 31st December.

In respect of the Council's housing list 755 applicants were awaiting rehousing at the end of 1972. During the year 104 applicants were rehoused and of this number 20 had been the subject of a medical recommendation. For various reasons 30 applicants were removed from the housing list and during the year 360 applicants were added to the housing list. It is estimated that about 16% of the total housing applicants are in urgent need of rehousing. On the subject of pensioners 160 are on the housing list, this figure being included in the total list of applicants above. 10% approx. of all Council dwellings are specially provided for old people, although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. The Canvey Island Urban District Council has been one of the foremost authorities in providing special accommodation for the elderly such as sheltered units with communal facilities, bell warning system and a resident warden. By the end of 1972 109 units of such accommodation had been provided contained in two purpose-built units, one unit which comprises the adaptation of existing dwelling with a complex of purpose-built units within the grounds and the fourth complex which comprise ex-army huts from the past war duly converted. These are listed as follows :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Opening Date</u>
Little Gypps Close,	20	29	1958
(Church Close)	6	6	1971
Warden: Mrs. I. Defrond			

Beatrice Littlewood House	33	34	1966
Warden: Mrs. L. Simms			
Amelia Blackwell House	28	28	1969
Warden: Mrs. J. Jarvis			
Willalla Poplar Road	22	24	1971
Temporary Warden: Miss E. Allbutt			

In addition the Abbeyfield Society provide residential accommodation for eight elderly persons with a warden/housekeeper.

54 families or individuals who were applicants on the Council's Housing List were referred for medical classification during the year. Awards of medical points were made as follows :

Group 'A' (7 points)	-	17
Group 'B' (4 points)	-	17
Group 'C' (2 points)	-	13

Of the remainder six applicants did not qualify for a medical recommendation and the need in another case was entirely social. Two requests for transfer of their Council tenancies were received and supported.

Additionally, 11 previous cases came up for reassessment during the year. Three were regraded from D to C, two from D to B and one from B to A. Three others were confirmed in their same gradings.

The following is a summary of action taken by the Public Health Inspectors during 1972, in respect of housing matters :

Closing orders	..	..	..	4
Demolition Order procedure			..	10
Demolition and Redevelopment			..	268
Improvement Grants/Housing Act 1969				51
Rehousing	..	..	..	83
Overcrowding	..	..	..	13
Rent Act	..	..	..	3

Houseboats

There are four houseboats within the Urban District, two are sited in the tidal area of Small Gains Creek, one of which is permanently occupied. The remaining two houseboats are on the south side of Benfleet Creek, of which one is occupied.

Caravan Sites

During the year a complete review of the site licence conditions on the holiday caravan sites has taken place and variation of some site licence conditions have been made. 61 inspections were made during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 179 food establishments at Canvey Island; these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:

Trades	No.	<u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960</u>		
		Number of premises complying with Regulation 16.	Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies.	Number of premises complying with Regulation 19.
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Butchers	13	13	13	13
Cafes and restaurants	26	26	26	26
Canteens: Industrial	10	10	10	10
School	10	10	10	10
Confectioners	14	14	14	14
Cooked meat manufacturers	5	5	5	5
Fishmongers	11	11	11	11
General provisions	51	51	51	51
Greengrocers	18	15	18	18
Licenced premises	19	19	19	19

Condemned Food

During the year the Public Health Inspectors condemned 4,360 lbs. of various foods, all of which were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Newlands.

Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods is 20.

Ice Cream

There are 35 retailers and 4 manufacturers registered under the Ice Cream Regulations.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments within the Urban District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During 1972 188 cases of notifiable diseases were formally reported by family and hospital doctors. The increase over 1971 was 102 but measles almost wholly accounted for this difference. There were no serious or fatal cases and details of interest are shown as follows :

Measles

Of the 143 cases reported 75 were in pre-school children. Only a handful of cases were in children over 10. The increased incidence seen in 1972 continued well into 1973. Many young mothers seem to be carelessly neglecting protective vaccination which is free for the asking.

Acute Meningitis

All the four cases notified were children suffering from viral meningitis.

Infective Jaundice

Of the 6 cases notified, 3 were over 50 years of age and 3 were under 35 years old, the only child being four years of age.

Food Poisoning

Although 17 notifications of cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning appear in the table, in fact a total of 28 came to light as a result of investigation by the Public Health Inspectors. Additionally one case of confirmed salmonella came to notice, but not food borne as far as the patient was concerned.

Isolations by the Public Health Laboratory were as follows :

Salmonella agona	2
Salmonella panama	1
Salmonella typhimurium	4
Clostridium welchii	3
Staphylococcal aureus	6

There were 3 separate incidences of confirmed salmonella infection in holiday makers returning from Spain. Two of these involved two persons with Salmonella typhimurium, one of which gave the infection to his grandmother. The other incident involved a husband and wife who were ill on account of Salmonella agona. One further case of Salmonella typhimurium was discovered in a man who spent a holiday in a large holiday camp on the South Coast.

Among the numerous individual cases investigated food firmly suspected as being responsible was chicken in two cases. Other foods complained of involved cockles, beef, macaroon, reheated chicken soup and apple pie. Chinese meals were blamed in two instances, one person was ill on return from a holiday camp where hygiene standards were alleged to be low.

Dysentery

Of the three cases notified, only one was positive on laboratory investigation, shigella flezner 4a being isolated.

Approximately 40 cases of persistent diarrhoea, mostly referred by family doctors, were investigated bacteriologically, but with negative results.

Tuberculosis

At the end of the year 95 persons resident on Canvey Island remained on the Tuberculosis Register. Most of these would have been on the register for some years and only attended the Chest Clinic for periodic checks. Three new cases, including a child, were notified during 1972 and one case was removed from the register as recovered. Also three new residents having been previously notified at their former address, were added to the register. There were no deaths from tuberculosis during 1972.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year :

CANVEY ISLAND

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 & Over	TOTALS
Acute meningitis	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
Food poisoning	-	1	1	1	1	8	4	1	17
Infective jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	6
Measles	7	68	62	4	2	-	-	-	143
Scarlet fever	-	1	6	1	2	-	-	-	10
Whooping cough	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
	8	75	73	6	6	11	6	3	188

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mrs. J.A. Selby (Chairman)

N.J. Crabb

L.A. Laffan (Vice Chairman of Council)

E.A. Hunt (Vice Chairman)

L.H. Ives

J.W. Pike

A.C. Partridge

P.S. Saunders

R.M. Williams, C.C.

Mrs. M.E. Willis

LOCAL

STATISTICS

Area(in acres)	6,370
Number of habitable houses	17,054
Number of inhabited houses	16,814
Population (1971 Census)	47,924
Population (mid-year revised estimate 1972)	48,780
Rateable value) as at 31st	£1,838,533
Sum represented by a Penny Rate) March 1973	£17,899
New assessment: at 1st April, 1973	
Rateable value	£5,869,334
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£55,957

VITAL

STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	England & Wales
Total live births	403	365	768	15.7 (14.6)*	14.8
Total deaths	234	221	455	9.3 (9.7)*	12.1
				Rate per 1,000 <u>live births</u>	
Illegitimate births	9	16	25	32.6	
Infant deaths	5	4	9	11.7	17.0
Neonatal deaths	3	4	7	9.1	12.0
				Rate per 1,000 live & <u>stillbirths</u>	
Stillbirths	3	5	8	10.3	12.0
Perinatal mortality	5	9	16	18.0	22.0

(includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

NOTE: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.93 and Deaths 1.04.

* Local Adjusted Rate

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	6	7	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	27	2	29
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	4	-	4
Leukaemia	1	2	3
Other malignant neoplasms	18	16	34
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	5	-	5
Diabetes mellitus	1	4	5
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	1	2	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease	3	1	4
Ischaemic heart disease	69	44	113
Other forms of heart disease	9	21	30
Cerebrovascular disease	27	48	75
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	9	17
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	13	16	29
Bronchitis and emphysema	16	2	18
Asthma	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	4	6
Peptic ulcer	-	2	2
Other diseases of digestive system	1	4	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	3	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	2	3
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	2	3
Congenital anomalies	3	1	4
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	-	2	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	3	4
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	-	1	1
TOTALS	234	221	455

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1972

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 and under 15	-	-	-
15 and under 25	4	2	6
25 and under 35	2	2	4
35 and under 45	6	3	9
45 and under 55	15	11	26
55 and under 65	36	17	53
65 and under 75	76	39	115
75 and upwards	89	143	232
	234	221	455

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate is a little above the national rate and the death rate well below the national rate. The infant mortality rate is well below the national rate. Deaths between 55 and 65 are about twice those between 45 and 55, deaths between 65 and 75 just over twice those between 55 and 65, and deaths over 75 are twice those between 65 and 75. The two most important causes of death were ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease, and the death rate from ischaemic heart disease was about twice the national rate, but the death rate from cerebrovascular disease was about equal to the national rate. The death rate from pneumonia was well above the national rate but that from bronchitis well below it. Deaths from accidents, though too many, were relatively few and I would judge that the motor vehicle accident death rate was about half the national rate and the home accident death rate about one third of the national rate. Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus occurred at about the national rate, and, as usual, mainly in men.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

A number of elderly residents sought the assistance of the Department during the year.

Some referrals required investigation to ascertain the exact nature of their need. A number were applicants for rehousing and a few needed the assistance of the Home Safety Committee for safety equipment in the bathroom. A few were voluntarily admitted to appropriate institutions and I am pleased to say that no action was needed under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

The two Old People's Welfare Committees in Benfleet - one covering Hadleigh and Thundersley and the other covering South Benfleet - co-ordinate with the Benfleet Old People's Welfare Council (backed by the District Council) in the provision of services and facilities to assist the elderly of the Urban District. The main activities appear to be (a) twice yearly parties for the elderly and housebound at Runnymede Hall when transport is arranged through volunteers (b) the distribution of Christmas parcels and (c) financial assistance for holidays.

Meals on Wheels

The W. R. V. S. Organiser for Benfleet has sent me the following details regarding Meals on Wheels and allied activities.

"20,928 meals were delivered to elderly people in their homes on three days each week throughout the year. The number of people receiving these meals fluctuates. During the peak winter months over 160 people were served each day that meals were delivered. Numbers decreased to approximately 120 people during the lowest summer period.

A further 13,058 meals were served at our two All-Day Clubs, one in Green Road, Benfleet and the other in the John Burrows Recreation Ground, Hadleigh. This was an increase of over 2,000 luncheon club meals during the year and is mainly due to the larger club now operating in Hadleigh.

I would like to stress our appreciation of the Local Council's mini-bus service for the elderly. Without the use of the mini-bus a number of the club members would be housebound and most probably have to be content with the Meals on Wheels Service.

I would also draw attention to our appreciation of the use of the Blue Peter Van. This van with its special equipment has enabled us on a few occasions to get Meals on Wheels recipients to the Hadleigh Old People's Club for their lunch and entertainment."

Social Services Department

A report by the Area Social Work Organiser of the Social Services Department of the Essex County Council relating to the Benfleet and Canvey Island areas, is shown as Appendix "A".

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply was entirely lime/soda softened river water from either the Hanningfield, or the Langford Works of the Essex Water Company.

The water is alkaline in nature with a hardness of 140-150 mg. per litre. The fluoride content is low at 0.2 to 0.3 mg. per litre and there is no evidence of plumbo solvency. During 1972, 369 additional supplies were connected, 1,855 yards of main were laid and 137 yards abandoned.

8 Houses are not connected to the public water supply. They rely on stored rain water and shallow wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Benfleet Urban District is divided roughly into eastern and western areas for purposes of sewage disposal. The eastern area is further sub-divided into a north-eastern section drained by gravity to the Rayleigh Urban District, the balance being drained by gravity to the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea.

The western area is also sub-divided into a north-western section which gravitates to a pumping station at Rushbottom Lane, the rising main from which discharges to the newly-commissioned pumping station at Old House Farm. Part of the south-western section gravitates to the South Benfleet Marsh Pumping Station, which has been reconstructed and commissioned this year - the balance draining by gravity to the newly-commissioned pumping station at Old House Farm.

Both Old House Farm and South Benfleet Marsh Stations pump sewage to the new completed Sewage Works in the extreme south-west of the District where it undergoes treatment. A new Coil Filter House was also commissioned at the works to facilitate the disposal of sludge, and this functions satisfactorily.

During the year $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles of surface water sewers were constructed by the Council and private developers, as well as 1 mile of foul sewers including 200 yards of sewers reconstructed as a result of investigations by survey carried out by television.

A total of 393 new dwellings were constructed by private developers and connected to the foul sewers. The South Benfleet Drainage and Flood Relief Scheme has been completed in conjunction with the Essex River Authority and includes three surface water pumping stations and a washland area with increased capacity.

The separation of surface water from foul sewer scheme within the Urban District commenced in 1967 and 838 properties have been dealt with to date.

Within the Urban District there are three major and four minor foul sewage pumping stations as well as four surface water pumping stations.

There are 152 dwellings in the District without drainage systems connected to the public sewer; of these, 72 have cesspools and the remainder earth or chemical closets. There is no night soil collection with the Urban District.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

7 refuse collection vehicles and 1 four-wheel drive vehicle are in service, the latter being used in connection with the collection of refuse in paper sacks from dwellings on unmade roads. 38 men are engaged on this work and a weekly collection is made throughout the District. 128 containers each of $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards capacity are now hired by the Council for use at business premises and schools. An additional 8 of these bins have been provided privately for this purpose also. One of the refuse vehicles is equipped to empty them.

A free collection of all unwanted household rubbish and motorcars is made from dwellings within the district. One ordinary refuse collection vehicle and one three ton lorry are used part-time for this purpose. 3,468 collections were made during the year.

The income from trade refuse collection for the year was £1,638

Disposal of refuse is carried out at the Council's controlled refuse tip on Benfleet Marsh.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The number of registered premises was 109 and in addition there were 131 building sites. All of the factories use mechanical power; 38 inspections were made during the year.

Particulars relevant to the prescribed table are shown below :

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	38	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	131	10	-
TOTALS	240	48	4

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	1

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (C)	
Wearing apparel	30	
Curtains and furniture hangings ..	2	
Artificial flowers, Christmas stockings etc.	1	
Brass articles	1	
TOTAL:		34

No contraventions of this Part of the Act were reported.

Headings that would normally show a Nil return have been omitted from the table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

The following is a summary of action taken under the Petroleum Regulations Act:

Petroleum spirit licences issued ..	38
Petroleum mixture licences issued ..	14
Inspection of premises and installations	39

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Equipment for the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is located in the John Burrows Recreation Ground, Hadleigh, and readings (micrograms per cubic metre) during 1972 are shown below:

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	
January	43	121	67	181	0.64
February	22	60	50	127	0.44
March	N	N	N	N	N
April	N	N	N	N	N
May	N	N	N	N	N
June	N	N	N	N	N
July	N	N	N	N	N
August	N	N	N	N	N
September	N	N	40	123	N
October	21	59	43	81	0.49
November	35	73	93	187	0.38
December	N	126	N	96	N

"N" indicates that the absence of a figure is accounted for by insufficient readings associated with technical difficulties with the apparatus.

PEST ANIMALS ACT 1951

Five licences were issued under the Act.

PEST CONTROL

There were 229 complaints about rats and mice and 298 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with them. 155 visits regarding other pests were made. All infestations were dealt with by the Pest Officer.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are seven school swimming pools in the District (listed below) and suitable water testing apparatus for residual and combined chlorine is provided at each school. One Master carries out the necessary routine tests whilst the pools are in use. Tests carried out by the Public Health Inspectors gave satisfactory results.

Kents Hill County Junior School
Kents Hill Holy Family School
King John School
South Benfleet Primary School
Thundersley County Junior School
Westwood Junior School

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 4,569 visits and inspections made by Public Health Inspectors during the year.

Accumulations - Offensive	76
Animals, keeping of	27
Clean Air Act	458
Drainage: Foul water	252
Surface water	90
Ditches	54
Factories	38
Food premises	549
Miscellaneous food visits	14
Housing: Repairs	253
Demolition procedure	29
Rent Act	4
Improvement Grants	314
Miscellaneous housing visits	154
Infectious diseases	158
Massage or special treatment premises	26
Meat inspection (slaughterhouse)	79
Moveable dwellings	83
Noise abatement	89
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	103
Petroleum spirit	39
Pest control	453
Refuse - collection and disposal	324
Sampling - Ice Cream	3
Milk	14
Others	14
Water	25
Schools	18
Slaughterhouse	11
Swimming pools	47
Unclassified	783
Water supply	6
	<hr/>
	4,569
	<hr/>

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES
ACT 1963

Registrations under the Act are as follows :

Offices	68
Retail shops	185
Wholesale shops	1
Catering establishments	14
Fuel storage depots	1

103 inspections were made during the year.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

There are three premises in the District which are licenced by the Essex County Council under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act 1933, as follows :

- B. Abraham, 303 Kiln Road, Thundersley
- A. Nelson, 28 Shipwrights Drive, Thundersley
- D.G. Salisbury, 44 Linden Road, Benfleet.

All were inspected and conditions found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING

At the end of 1972 the Council owned and managed 963 units of accommodation 243 of which were flats. 911 of these properties are post-war. No new Council dwellings were erected during the year.

In respect of private development 377 dwellings were completed during the year and a further 408 were under construction on the 31st December.

In respect of the Council's housing list 36 applicants were rehoused and of this number 6 had been the subject of a medical recommendation. For various reasons 27 applicants were removed from the housing list and during the year 237 applicants were added to the housing list. It is estimated that about 6% of the total housing applicants are in urgent need of rehousing. On the subject of pensioners 140 are on the housing list, this figure being included in the total list of applicants above. 30% of all Council dwellings are specially provided for old people, although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 32 purpose-built units of accommodation where communal facilities, a bell warning system, and the service of a warden are provided, the details being as follows :

Gowan Court, Gowan Brae, Benfleet

8 double units and 24 single units

34 residents accommodated on the 31st December, 1972.

Warden's flat also provided (Warden: Mrs. E. M. Channell) Opened June 1964.

A further sheltered unit has been provided by a private Housing Association as follows:

Meadowside, Uplands Road, Benfleet

10 double units and 14 single units

34 residents accommodated on the 31st December, 1972.

Warden's flat also provided (Warden: Mrs. J. Thomas). Opened April, 1969.

29 housing applicants were referred for medical classification during the year and recommendations for 27 of these cases were as follows :

Group "A" (9 points) - 4
Group "B" (6 points) - 15
Group "C" (3 points) - 5
Group "D" (0 points) - 3

The remaining two cases were not graded, one being purely social, but urgent , and the other would be resolved because a demolition order was pending.

The following is a summary of the 371 applicants on the housing waiting list at the end of 1972:

	Urgent Need	Need	No Need
Pensioners	3	24	29
Couples - no children	3	37	26
Families	14	70	61
Owner-occupiers	2	21	81

Action under the Housing Acts taken during the year was as follows :

Demolition orders made 3
Unfit houses demolished 9
Unfit houses repaired 19
Improvements carried out
under Grant Schemes 45

No redevelopment schemes were carried out during the year.

Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in this District.

Houseboats:

There is only one houseboat moored in Benfleet Creek, within the Urban District, which is used for permanent occupation.

Caravan Sites:

The only site in the District is owned and managed by the Council and is situated in Hart Road, Thundersley. The present policy of the Council is to run down the site with a view to redevelopment with permanent housing, and by the end of the year there were 65 caravans remaining.

FOOD HYGIENE

The following are the food premises within the Urban District:

Bakers' shops	..	..	12
Butchers' shops	..	..	21
Cafes	..	..	22
Canteens: Schools	..		22
Industrial	..		6
Confectioners	..	..	29
Fishmongers	..	..	10
General provisions		..	54
Greengrocers	..	..	15
Licenced premises		..	27
Multiple stores	..	..	1
Wholesale stores	..	..	2

Nineteen premises used for the preparation of meat and preserved foods are registered.

'Open' food is sold to some extent at all these premises and suitable sinks and wash hand-basins with hot and cold water are provided. The requirements of the Regulations regarding towels, soap and nail brushes are complied with.

There are no poultry processing premises within the District, but a number of chickens are slaughtered by arrangement with the owners of the Abattoir in a room specially fitted for this purpose. No birds are dressed there.

Meat Inspection

Cross Farm Abattoir in Benfleet Road, Hadleigh, occupies a site of 2.074 (about 2 acres), a large part of which is grazing land and the sizes of the various buildings are as follows: slaughter hall - 1,650 sq. ft., storage room - 1,097 sq. ft., chill room - 1,167 sq. ft., work room - 1,233 sq. ft., and covered lairage - 5,567 sq. ft.

Large animals are confined in a stunning pen and are stunned by a captive bolt pistol. Small animals are stunned by electricity. A casting pen is provided for use during Kosher slaughter. Animals are bought from local and distant markets and meat is supplied to many butchers' shops in South-East Essex.

Slaughtering usually takes place every day of the week except Thursdays and Saturdays with five slaughtermen engaged full time.

The following table gives details of the 20,550 carcasses of food animals examined during the year. 29 samples of tissues from diseased animals were submitted for laboratory examination.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,969	65	209	6,720	10,587
Number Inspected	2,969	65	209	6,720	10,587
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):-					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	3	2	60
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,109	13	-	371	3,458
Percentage affected	37.3	25.7	-	1.4	32.6
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	187
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	1.70
Cysticerci only:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Benfleet Urban District Council became a Food and Drugs Authority in April 1971.

- (a) Food Sampling 100 samples were taken during the year, and one was found to be unsatisfactory. The necessary action was taken.
- (b) Brucella Abortus No samples of raw milk were taken for this purpose.
- (c) Poultry Inspection There are no poultry processing premises in the District but inspection of poultry is carried out during routine inspection of butchers shops and supermarkets. No carcasses were condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption.
- (d) Unsound Food 9 complaints about unsound food were made and legal proceedings were recommended in respect of 3 of them, the details being as follows :

<u>Date of Hearing</u>	<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Result</u>
June 1972	Mouse dropping in sausage roll	£25 fine and £3 costs

At December 1972 proceedings were pending in respect of a piece of string in a loaf of bread and insects in savoury biscuits.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the District. At the close of the year, 102 premises were registered for the retail sale of ice cream. There are 16 hawkers of ice cream within the District. No action was taken during the year under current legislation. 5 samples were taken during the year, of these 4 were grade 3 and 1 grade 2.

Condemned Food

During the year 2 cwts. 46 lbs. of cooked meat and meat products, 26 lbs. canned meat, 16 cwts. 10 lbs. of other canned foods, 19 cwts. 72 lbs. of frozen foods (cabinet breakdown) and 1 cwt. 52 lbs. of other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of at the refuse tip on Benfleet Marshes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The overall number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1972 was about a third higher than the previous year, but this was due to a considerable rise in the number of cases of measles (198 as compared to 76 in 1971). This trend has been general throughout the area and continues to increase. The drop in cases of whooping cough (26 to 1) is most gratifying and the complete absence of confirmed dysentery can be noted with satisfaction. The number of cases of gastro-enteritis coming to the notice of the Department was also very small and no bacterial infection was reported among the 20 cases investigated. The incidence of infectious jaundice was similar to the previous year, three of the 11 cases being under 15 years of age. A number of cases of mumps, chicken-pox and rubella were reported to the Department by Head Teachers, with mumps being the most common.

Food poisoning

There was less food poisoning in the Urban District during 1972 as compared with 1971 and the following is a summary of the seven notified cases:

Staphylococcal aureus	4
Salmonella singapore	2
Clostridium welchii	1

Three of the cases of staphylococcal aureus infection were from one family who fell ill after eating cockles and it was thought the cockles may have been responsible, but not proven.

The two cases of salmonella singapore infection were two schoolboys who became ill whilst on a school cruise in the mediterranean area. About 600 children were on board and children came from all over Essex. 19 other Benfleet children were in the cruise party and were ill but bacteriological investigations on their return were negative to infection.

Three other cases of suspected food poisoning were reported, but bacteriological investigation showed nothing. The suspected foods were a cornish pasty, a chinese meal and a saveloy.

Tuberculosis

During 1972 four new cases were added to the Register, involving 3 young adults and one middle aged lady. One patient was removed from the register as having recovered and two others died. One of these two, an elderly lady, died from natural causes unassociated with tuberculosis. The other, a middle aged man, had a malignant condition as well as tuberculosis. At the end of the year 152 names remained on the register.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year:

BENFLEET

	Under 1	65 & Over								Totals
		1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	Over		
Food poisoning	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	7	
Infective jaundice	-	-	2	1	4	4	-	-	11	
Measles	7	62	121	4	1	3	-	-	198	
Scarlet fever	-	2	7	2	-	1	-	-	12	
Whooping cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
	7	64	132	10	6	10	-	-	229	



RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

L. K. Cope (Chairman)
F. G. Brookman
Mrs. F. E. Clayton
P. R. Elliott
R. G. J. Foley (Chairman of Council)
H. Fudge (Vice-Chairman of Council)
N. H. Groombridge
Mrs. D. S. Hawtree
R. McCamley
R. D. Needham
R. W. C. Offwood

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	5,709
Number of habitable houses	..	..	..	..	9,111
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	8,881
Population (1971 Census)	..	..	..	..	26,265
Population (mid-year revised estimate 1972)	..	..	..	..	26,540
Rateable Value				) as at 31st	£1,174,712
Sum represented by a Penny Rate)				March 1973	£11,357
New Assessment at the 1st April, 1973					
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£3,610,440
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£36,000

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	England & Wales
Total live births	158	177	335	12.5 (12.6)*	14.8
Total deaths	145	116	261	9.8 (10.9)*	12.1

				Rate per 1,000 <u>live births</u>	
Illegitimate births	3	6	9	26.9	
Infant deaths	-	1	1	3.0	17.0
Neonatal deaths	-	1	1	3.0	12.0

				Rate per 1,000 <u>live and stillbirths</u>	
Stillbirths	1	-	1	3.0	12.0
Perinatal mortality	1	1	2	6.0	22.0

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

Note: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth and Death Rates are - Births 1.01 and Deaths 1.11

* Local Adjusted Rate

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	-	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	12	9	21
Diabetes mellitus	2	2	4
Hypertensive disease	2	2	4
Ischaemic heart disease	33	21	54
Other forms of heart disease	7	5	12
Cerebrovascular disease	27	37	64
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	6	8
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	8	5	13
Bronchitis and emphysema	11	2	13
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	3	4
Cirrhosis of liver	-	3	3
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	2	4
Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	1	3
TOTALS	145	116	261

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1972

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	-	1	1
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 and under 15	1	-	1
15 and under 25	-	-	-
25 and under 35	2	-	2
35 and under 45	3	2	5
45 and under 55	16	4	20
55 and under 65	18	10	28
65 and under 75	40	21	61
75 and upwards	65	78	143
	145	116	261

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths between 55 and 65 are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times those between 45 and 55, deaths between 65 and 75 about twice those between 55 and 65 and deaths over the age of 75 a little over twice those between 65 and 75.

The number of deaths for a population of this size is not large and the crude death rate is, therefore, relatively low. The birth rate is also relatively low. The most prominent causes of death are cerebrovascular disease and ischaemic heart disease. The death rate from ischaemic heart disease is about twice the national rate and the death rate from cerebrovascular disease about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the national rate. Deaths from cancer of the respiratory system occurred at about the national rate. Deaths from respiratory diseases generally were somewhat below the national rates and it seems probable, therefore, that the stress on Rayleigh hearts is not secondary to lung damage. So far as one can judge, death rate from motor vehicle accidents is slightly above the national rate, but the death rate from home accidents is well below the national average.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Many elderly people sought the assistance of the Department during the year or were brought to notice as being in need of care and attention. A good number of these were applicants for rehousing. Others were given assistance through the Home Safety Committee by the provision of bath safety equipment (bath rails, bath seats and no-slip discs) to prevent accidents in the bathroom. Six very elderly residents were the subject of investigation and supervision. Four of these were borderline cases for action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 for removal to a suitable institution under a Court Order, but I am pleased to say that the difficulties they presented were resolved otherwise, one being admitted to a Welfare Home voluntarily.

Local Authority Social Services

A separate report by the Area Social Work Organiser of the Essex County Council Social Services Department for the Rayleigh and Rochford area is shown at Appendix "B".

Meals on Wheels

Mrs. J. Horrex of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, who organises the Meals on Wheels service in Rayleigh has informed me that 10,949 meals were served during 1972. These are summarised as follows :-

Diet meals	-	735
Diabetic meals	-	88
Ordinary meals	-	10,126

The meals are obtained from the industrial canteen of Messrs. Herrmann Ltd., of Rayleigh. Recipients were charged 10p per meal and a subsidy shared by the County and District Councils amounted to £1,414.84 for the financial year 1972/73.

Rayleigh is the only area in South East Essex where meals are provided 5 days a week. Delivery is by W.R.V.S. van and private cars and the service has been built up from 2 days a week in 1957 to the present 5 days. This is very commendable and my thanks are extended to the W.R.V.S. team, under Mrs. Horrex, and the Catering Manager of Messrs. Herrmann Ltd., for this valuable efficient service to elderly shut-in's whose existence could well be precarious otherwise.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is entirely lime-soda softened river water from either the Hanningfield or the Langford Works of the Essex Water Company. It is alkaline in nature with a hardness of 140-150 mg. per litre. The fluoride content is low at 0.2 to 0.3 mg. per litre and there is no evidence of plumbo solvency.

During 1972, 290 additional supplies were connected. 2,879 yards of new main were laid and 2,523 yards abandoned.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Rayleigh being sited on a ridge of land (which generally follows the line of the High Street) is divided into two catchment areas, namely the Eastern and Western areas for sewage disposal purposes.

With the upsurge of new development in the District which commenced during the mid-1950's, considerable works have been carried out involving the enlargement of the two Sewage Disposal Works and the provision of a trunk soil drainage system. Having regard to the continued expansion of development it has become necessary for further extensions to be made at both Sewage Disposal Works.

The first phase of the new extensions to the Eastern Sewage Disposal Works was completed early in 1971 and the second phase, being the most extensive costing over £300,000 is under construction at the present time, with completion programmed for early 1973.

A new Sewage Disposal Works has been designed to serve Western drainage area and the construction work on this project, estimated to cost £700,000 has commenced.

The Council have also in recent years been looking at the problems of surface water flooding and the provision of a new trunk surface water sewer serving Bull Lane area is generally complete. This sewer takes the surface water from the town centre and the residential area in the eastern part of the town taking the flows away from the existing overloaded ditches and out-of-date pipe systems. Design work is in progress in respect of the provision of improvements to the surface water system in the western catchment area in the vicinity of Cheapside West, and it is hoped that work on this project will commence during 1973.

During 1972, 104 new properties and 3 existing properties were connected to main drainage. The approximate length of soil sewers constructed during the year was 300 metres. 1000 metres of surface water sewer were also constructed. It is now estimated that 98% of all premises in the Urban District are served by main drainage system.

Cesspool drainage is provided to 150 properties and a further 72 properties have earth or chemical closets. 18 of the latter have a night soil collection.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Rayleigh Urban District is served with a regular weekly collection of house and trade refuse with the exception of premises on unmade roads, where the collection is fortnightly. Five vehicles and 19 men are used for this purpose. Materials salvaged during the year amounted to some 149 tons and realised on sale £1,541. Refuse was disposed at Leigh Marshes by arrangement with the Southend Corporation. 6,296 tons of refuse were collected during 1972.

THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

94 premises are registered and 90 use mechanical power. 14 inspections were made but no defects found or reported. There were 22 outworkers in the August list and the nature of the work undertaken was wearing apparel. In all other respects there is a nil return under the prescribed table.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 2,676 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1972:

Atmospheric pollution	..	..	..	..	83
Caravans and camping sites	..	..	..	..	2
Drainage and sewerage	..	..	..	..	201
Factories and outworkers	..	..	..	..	14
Food and food premises	..	..	..	..	422
Housing: Demolition Order procedure		..	..		28
Repairs	..	..	..	..	98
Improvement Grants		..	..	..	202
Rehousing	..	..	..	..	50
Rent Act	..	..	..	..	38
Infectious disease and food poisoning	..	..	..	..	242
Noise abatement	..	..	..	..	111
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	134
Offices and shops	..	..	..	..	154
Pest control	..	..	..	..	252
Petroleum storage	..	..	..	..	10
Litter	..	..	..	..	21
Refuse collection and disposal, including salvage		..			343
Swimming pools	..	..	..	..	4
Water supplies	..	..	..	..	58
Unclassified	..	..	..	..	209

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During 1972 9 offices and 8 retail shops were newly registered, and 154 inspections were made.

At 31st December, the following premises were registered:

Offices	..	..	..	..	57
Retail shops	..	..	..	..	125
Wholesale shops and warehouses		..	..	..	7
Catering establishments	..	..	..	..	14

The following is a summary of persons employed at registered premises:

Offices	..	..	..	..	378
Retail shops	..	..	..	..	732
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	..	..	..		26
Catering establishments open to the public		..	..		125
Canteen	..	..	..	..	1

The number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 of the Act is two.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings of air pollution continue to be taken both as regards smoke and the presence of sulphur dioxide and these indicate that the degree of pollution is low. 83 visits were made during the year regarding bonfires, smoke from factories and domestic chimneys.

The following is the summary of smoke and sulphur dioxide readings (micrograms per cubic metres) from the Atmospheric Pollution Recording Unit in Rayleigh during 1973.

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke/SO ₂
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	Ratio
January	51	95	106	208	.48
February	37	78	40	212	.41
March	40	116	97	165	.41
April	14	38	64	138	.20
May	14	21	54	92	.26
June	11	29	66	119	.17
July	12	21	61	104	.20
August	14	29	52	111	.27
September	25	66	58	186	.43
October	25	50	58	119	.43
November	39	71	74	230	.33
December	51	128	N.	134	N.

NOISE

Readings of the ambient noise levels were commenced in various sites in the area. These give an indication of the background noise level and may be used as a yardstick in the future.

A number of visits were made regarding industrial noise which resulted in noise levels being reduced.

Contractors working on roads as well as building contractors continue to fit mufflers to their pneumatic picks and similar tools.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulation Act, 27 licences to store petroleum spirit and petroleum mixture were issued. 10 inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT

2 Licences for the keeping of pets for sale were issued during the year.

PEST CONTROL

188 premises were inspected and treated during the year for rats and mice.

50 sewer manholes were baited for rodents, but evidence of infestation was only found in three of the manholes. Suitable follow-up treatment was given. Advice was given on a variety of other mammals and insects including bats, ants and wasps.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

The one Chiropodist in Rayleigh, licenced under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act 1933, is Mr. L.R. Wheeler, M. Ch. S. of 98 High Street.

SWIMMING POOLS

Of the maintained schools in the Urban District, six as listed below, now have their own swimming pools and a suitable outfit for chlorinating purposes is provided by the Education Authority. One master in each school carries out the necessary tests whilst the pools are in use :

Downhall County Primary School
Glebe County Junior School
Grove County Junior School
Our Lady of Ransom R. C. Primary School
Rayleigh County Junior School
Sweyne School (Comprehensive)

By mutual arrangement between the Essex Education Committee and the District Council, the Swimming Pool at Sewyne School was made available to local residents for the summer season (April - October).

HOUSING

At the end of 1972 the Council owned and managed 624 units of accommodation 154 of which were flats. 552 of these properties are post-war. There was no Council housing development during 1972.

In respect of private development 104 dwellings were completed during the year and a further 385 properties were under construction on the 31st December, 1972.

In respect of the Council's housing list 24 applicants were rehoused and of this number 4 had been the subject of a medical recommendation. For various reasons 35 applicants were removed from the housing list and during the year 142 applicants were added to the housing list. It is estimated that about 2% of the total housing applicants are in urgent need of rehousing. On the subject of pensioners there were 205 applicants on the list for rehousing (out of a total of 414). 20% of all Council dwellings are specially provided for old people, although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 78 purpose-built units of accommodation where communal facilities, a bell warning system, and the service of a warden are provided. Details of this special sheltered accommodation for the elderly is as follows :

Frances Cottee Lodge, Clarence Road, Rayleigh

12 Double units 18 single units
38 residents accommodated on the 31st December, 1972. Warden's
flat provided additionally (Mrs. V. Cooke). Opened 1965.

Hardwick House, Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh

8 double units 28 single units 10 bungalows
59 residents accommodated on the 31st December, 1972. Warden's
flat provided additionally (Mrs. M. Wilson). Opened 1970.

A further 30 units, including Warden's accommodation are provided as follows. These have a warden, bell warning system, but no communal facilities.

Crown Hill & Francis Walk site	18 units
Finchfield site, Eastwood Road	12 units

A further sheltered unit has been provided by the Hanover Housing Association as follows :

Hanover House, Hockley Road, Rayleigh

6 double units 14 single units
23 residents accommodated on the 31st December, 1972. Warden's flat
provided additionally (Mr. Cove). Opened 1970.

31 housing applicants were referred to me for medical assessment during the year and the following recommendations were made:

'A' (For consideration for over-riding priority)	4
'B' (A medical priority does exist)	20
'C' (No real medical indication)	5

Two cases were not graded - though a mutual exchange was agreed for one of these owing to a young mother suffering from 'tunnel' vision and needing to live near her parents in an adjoining area. Five previous cases were upgraded during 1972. Two being placed in Grade 'A' and 3 in Grade 'B'. Support for the installation of a telephone in an elderly persons flat was also given.

Housing Improvements and Slum Clearance

Action under the Housing Acts, undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors, was as follows :

Unfit houses demolished	1
Unfit houses repaired or improved	15
Improvement Grants approved	17
Improvements carried out	18

Since 1956 demolition order procedure under the slum clearance programme has resulted in 57 properties being demolished.

Caravan Sites There are no licenced caravan sites in the Urban District.

Houseboats There are no housboats in the Urban District

Common Lodging Houses There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Urban District.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 131 food establishments in the Urban District, all of which are fitted with wash hand-basins, hot and cold water, etc. to comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960. All to some extent sell open food and have sinks etc. for the washing of equipment to comply with Section 19 of the Regulations.

The premises are summarised as follows :

Bakers	8
Butchers	12
Cafes and restaurants	19
Take Away food shops	4
Canteens : Industrial	7
School	8
Confectioners	12
Cooked meat manufacturers	1
Fishmongers - Wet, fried and shell	6
General provisions	24
Greengrocers	8
Licenced premises and Off-	
Licences	17
Clubs	4
Potato washing factory	1

N.B. A number of Supermarkets and other shops operate a variety of food trades. Such premises are only shown once in the above table.

Preserved Foods

There are 10 premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

21 retailers in Rayleigh are registered under the Ice Cream Regulations. There are no manufacturers.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District and no instances of unpasteurised liquid egg being used came to the notice of the Department.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry dressing stations within the District.

Unsound Food

3 tons of food was voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption, and disposed of at the refuse tip.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

I am pleased to say that the incidence of infectious disease in Rayleigh during 1972 was the lowest for years. The continued and dramatic drop in the cases of measles suggests that parents have at last realised the importance of vaccination. There were no confirmed cases of dysentery although approximately 20 cases of persistent diarrhoea and vomiting (almost all children) were investigated.

Food Poisoning

Cases of food poisoning and suspected food poisoning continued to occur, thus indicating the necessity for health education in food hygiene matters, both to food handlers and the general public. Apart from the 14 notified cases, a further 27 cases and suspected cases were investigated. A summary of the findings, noting the persons affected, is shown as follows :

Salmonella thompson	4	A young family reported being unwell following a holiday in Tunisia, although bacteriological examination showed only the mother to be positive to infection.
Salmonella typhimurium	1	A small child received hospital treatment after eating turkey meat.
Salmonella singapore	1	A child who went on a school cruise to the Mediterranean in March. A number of children from various areas of Essex were ill and nine other Rayleigh children had symptoms but were negative on investigation.
Salmonella virchow	1	A teenage boy ate curry at an Indian Restaurant in London and was admitted to hospital.
Clostridium welchii	10	Three incidents were involved and the only food incriminated was pasteurised milk affecting two elderly people.

- 9 Again three incidents were involved and one included seven people who had a meal at a local hotel and were ill afterwards. Chocolate sauce used for the sweet was found to be infected.

Among the foods alleged to have given rise to symptoms of food poisoning in a further nine cases were curried crisps, pork, fish and chips and a chinese meal.

Owing to the risk of spreading salmonella infection to humans a local veterinary surgeon sought the help of the Department. A local family had 7 dogs, including the parents and a litter of three Great Danes. Suspicious symptoms had persisted for several weeks. The infection finally proved to be three different types of salmonella (typhimurium 14a, livingstone and infantis). However, I am pleased to say that with the help of the Public Health Laboratory the infection was finally cleared and the three pups survived!

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of tuberculosis were notified in Rayleigh during the year and all were wage-earning adults. One elderly person still on the register died and this was classified as a tuberculosis death (late effects) although the lady also suffered from bronchitis and fibrosis of the lungs. At the end of the year 87 names still remained on the register although most of these would be largely recovered and only attending the Chest Clinic for occasional checks.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year:

RAYLEIGH

	Under					65 &			TOTALS
	1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	Over	
Acute meningitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food poisoning	-	1	1	1	6	3	2	-	14
Infective jaundice	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	5
Measles	1	11	6	1	-	-	-	-	19
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	5
	1	12	9	6	10	4	2	-	44

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT
HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Miss E. M. Leggatt (Chairman)

R. Blackburn
A. J. Harvey (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
J. W. King
G. C. Oldbury
J. C. Rayment
Mrs. J. K. Robson
A. E. Rome (Vice Chairman)
S. G. Robson (Chairman of the Council)
A. L. Tate
W. J. Tracey
J. R. Warner

LOCAL

STATISTICS	Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	36,220
	Number of habitable houses			..	..	14,667
	Number of inhabited houses			..	..	14,381
	Population (1971 Census)	..	..	..		42,002
	Population (mid-year revised estimate 1972)					42,190
	Rateable value			) as at 31st		£1,642,708
	Sum represented by a Penny Rate			) March 1973		£15,953
	New Assessment at the 1st April, 1973					
	Rateable Value					£4,745,606
	Sum represented by a Penny Rate					£49,971

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000 Population	England & Wales
Total live births	368	361	729	17.3 (15.4)*	14.8
Total deaths	248	231	479	11.4 (10.6)*	12.1

				Rate per 1000 <u>live births</u>	
Illegitimate births	11	14	25	34.3	
Infants deaths	3	3	6	8.2	17.0
Neonatal deaths	2	1	3	4.1	12.0

				Rate per 1000 live & <u>stillbirths</u>	
Stillbirths	3	5	8	10.9	12.0
Perinatal mortality	5	6	11	15.0	22.0
(includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)					

NOTE: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth & Death Rates are - Births 0.89 and Deaths 0.93.

* Local Adjusted Rate

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	TOTAL
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	2	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	5	10
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	8	5	13
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	18	5	23
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	5	-	5
Other malignant neoplasms	10	9	19
Diabetes mellitus	1	5	6
Other endocrine etc. diseases	2	1	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	5	5	10
Other diseases of nervous system	1	3	4
Hypertensive disease	3	4	7
Ischaemic heart disease	57	45	102
Other forms of heart disease	7	7	14
Cerebrovascular disease	56	76	132
Other diseases of circulatory system	10	9	19
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	14	12	26
Bronchitis and emphysema	19	2	21
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	3	4
Peptic ulcer	3	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	2	4
Other diseases of digestive system	-	3	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Other complications of pregnancy, etc.	-	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	4	6
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	1	4
TOTALS	248	231	479

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1972

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Under 1 year	3	3	6
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 and under 15	1	-	1
15 and under 25	2	-	2
25 and under 35	-	1	1
35 and under 45	3	3	6
45 and under 55	17	11	28
55 and under 65	30	23	53
65 and under 75	70	41	111
75 and upwards	122	149	271
	248	231	479

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

It will be noted that the deaths between 55 and 65 is almost twice that between 45 and 55. The deaths between 65 and 75 twice that between 55 and 65, and that deaths over the age of 75 are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times those between 65 and 75. Almost half the deaths were due to ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease. The death rate from ischaemic heart disease is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the national rate and that from cerebrovascular disease about twice the national rate. On the other hand death rates from respiratory diseases are lower than national rates and the death rate from cancer of the respiratory system is about 10% below the national rate. Deaths from accidents are few and this makes comparison more difficult, but it is probable that death rates, both from motor vehicle accidents and home accidents, are well below national rates.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Population

18% or 7,555 of the population of the Rural District were over 60 years of age at the 1971 Census. The following is the breakdown for each ten year period :

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
60 - 69	1,815	2,100
70 - 79	955	1,560
80 - 89	340	660
90 and over	30	95
	3,140	4,415

Cases of Need

Over 70 elderly people came to the attention of the Department during 1972 as being in need of assistance. Housing needs accounted for over 30 of these, 20 required the help of bath safety equipment, 10 were specially at risk for hypothermia, and the remainder had a variety of needs. Some were admitted to hospital, others to Welfare Homes. Some were rehoused by the Council, others were contained in their own homes, with the help of the domiciliary services.

Whilst no action was taken during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, a number of difficult cases were coped with without recourse to compulsory action.

The South East Essex Home Safety Committee gave useful assistance to the elderly of the Rural District who needed help in the bathroom, the following equipment being provided :

Bath Safety Rails	10
Grab rails	1
Bath Safety Seats	9
Bath boards	1
No slip Discs (sets)	10

Meals on Wheels

The Honorary Organiser of the Meals-on-Wheels Service for the Rochford Rural District, Mr. Rupert C. Jarvis of the Hockley and Hawkwell Old People's Welfare Council, has kindly supplied me with the following information about meals provided for the elderly during 1972.

A total of 19,253 meals were delivered to private homes and a further 1,100 were provided 'on tables' at the Hockley Meals Centre. This compares with an overall total of 18,393 in 1971 and 15,121 in 1970. The 1972 total is summarised as follows in parishes, showing frequency of delivery :

Ashingdon	Twice a week delivery by volunteers' private cars (Tuesdays and Thursdays)	763
Hawkwell	Three times a week delivered by volunteers' private cars (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)	4,423
Hockley	Three times a week delivery by volunteers' private cars and van provided by Hockley & Hawkwell Old People's Welfare Council (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)	6,619

Hullbridge	Three times a week delivery by volunteers' private cars and van provided by Hullbridge Senior Citizens Welfare Council (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)	3,620
Rochford	Twice a week delivery by volunteers' private cars (Tuesdays and Thursdays)	3,168
Great and Little Wakering and Barling	Twice a week delivery by volunteers' private cars (Tuesdays and Thursdays)	1,760
		<hr/> 18,393 <hr/>

In Ashingdon, Hawkwell, Hockley and Rochford the meals are received from Rochford Hospital throughout the year. In Hullbridge they are received from the local Primary School during term and from Hockley (ex Hospital) during the holidays. In Great and Little Wakering they are received from the local junior school during term, supplemented somewhat during the holidays.

Charges to recipients varied from 10p to 15p and a grant of £2,170 was received from the Local Authority, through the precept of the Old People's Welfare Committee for the Rochford Rural District to cover the difference between the charges and the prime delivery costs. The average number of people who benefited in their own homes each week from this very valuable service was 154. Delivery of the meals, from proper insulated heated containers was effected by the ad hoc service organised by the Old People's Welfare Committee for the Rochford Rural District Council. In Hockley and Hawkwell personal diet meals were provided throughout the year for diabetics and others by special arrangements with the Hospital and the family doctors.

The valuable help of the Chief Catering Officer and his Chef and general staff at Rochford General Hospital, also the catering staffs at Hullbridge Primary and Great Wakering Junior Schools is very much appreciated.

Social Services Department

A brief report provided by the Area Social Work Organiser of the Social Services Department at Rayleigh, which covers the area of the Rochford Rural District is shown at Appendix "B".

Voluntary Organisations

A considerable amount of good work for the elderly is undertaken by the Churches and the various organisations throughout the Rural District. These include the

Hockley & Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Council
Hullbridge Senior Citizens Welfare Council
Rochford Old Peoples Welfare Committee
Rochford W. R. V. S.
Darby & Joan Clubs and Old Age Pensioner Groups

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is mainly lime/soda softened river water from either the Hanningfield or the Langford Works of the Essex Water Company. It is alkaline in nature with a hardness of 140 to 150 mg. per litre and a low fluoride content of 0.2 to 0.3 mg. per litre.

During the summer of 1972 the supply was supplemented by 15,000,000 gallons from the South Fambridge deep well which is very soft, saline and has a fluoride content of 4.4 mg. per litre.

There is no evidence of plumbo solvency.

During 1972, 223 new supplies were connected, 1,160 yards of main were laid and 959 yards abandoned.

The following table shows the houses on main supply, with estimated population for each Parish of the Rural District, as at 31st December, 1972 :

PARISH	Acreage	Houses on main supply	Estimated population on main supply
Ashingdon (including South Fambridge)	2,503	919	2,676
Barling Magna (inc. Little Wakering)	2,747	499	1,324
Canewdon	6,845	502	1,480
Foulness Island	7,235	92	270
Great Wakering	3,314	1,608	4,321
Hawkwell	1,408	3,232	9,206
Hockley	1,578	2,870	8,033
Hullbridge	2,193	2,213	5,419 + 945
Paglesham	1,687	101	261
Rochford	2,988	2,356	***7,487 + 40
Stambridge	2,202	201	586
Sutton	1,520	61	174
Totals	36,220	14,654	41,237 + 985

- * One premises involving two persons is served by a standpipe provided by the Council.
- ** Water mains on Foulness Island are owned by the War Department, although water is supplied by the Essex Water Company.
- *** This figure includes residents of Hospital and Welfare Institutions.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main drainage in the Rochford Rural District serves over 90% of the population. There are six Sewage Treatment Works as follows :

Stambridge	Barling	Paglesham (East End)
Havengore	Paglesham (Jubilee Cottages)	Foulness (Church End)

The largest sewage treatment works is at Stambridge and serves the Parishes of Ashingdon, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Hockley, Rochford, Stambridge and Sutton. The Havengore Works, which has been extended, is the second largest serving the Parishes of Barling, Great Wakering and Little Wakering. The remaining four Sewage Treatment Works serve only the villages, etc. in which they are constructed.

The Capital Works Programme nearing completion and completed includes :

- 1) The reconstruction of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works.
- 2) The provision of a new trunk foul sewer from Hockley to Stambridge 11070 metres. Completed - not in use.
- 3) A new foul sewerage system to serve Hullbridge which comprises new main sewers, pumping station and rising main discharging into the trunk sewers referred to in (2). Nearing completion.
- 4) New Trunk Surface Water sewers 5536 meters to serve Hockley and Hullbridge - completed.

The embargo on new planning applications enforced by virtue of the overloading of the main sewage treatment works at Stambridge and the Western Works at Rayleigh, which at present serves Hullbridge, has continued in force throughout the year. New building has, therefore, been confined to outstanding planning consents and redevelopment where simple replacement takes place. Applications for new development to be served by privately installed treatment plants have been rejected.

Twenty-three properties were connected to the sewer during the year while three were built with septic tanks.

The lengths of sewer extensions vested in the Council were -

Soil sewer	629 metres
Surface water sewer	93 metres

A night soil collection is made by contractor from 48 properties.

BARLING SEWAGE FARM

The Sewage Farm covering 145 acres of the two farms mentioned has been used by the Southend Corporation since 1928 for sludge disposal, and 30 acres were being so used at the time of this investigation. Public footpaths cross the farmlands. Farming activity was carried on by prisoners from Chelmsford Jail under the Home Office tenancy which was terminated after the 1971 barley crop was found to be heavily contaminated with heavy metal.

The sludge disposal process involves the pumping of liquid sewage sludge from the Prittlewell Sewage Works direct to the farm. Trenches some 3 ft. deep are filled with the sludge and topped up as the liquid drains away and then finally filled with six inches of soil. The process is then repeated in another area and so on and the same land is re-trenched every seven years.

In September 1971 Southend Corporation applied to Rochford Council for a modification of a previous planning consent whereby two new dwellings erected on the site could be occupied by persons other than agricultural workers. This request was necessary because the Home Office had terminated its tenancy of Ropers and Trumpions Farms due to soil deterioration caused by the Corporation's sludging operations. I attended a meeting of relevant officials from Southend and Rochford Councils at Rochford on 11th April, 1972. A further meeting was held at Southend Civic Centre on 3rd May, when a Medical Officer from the Department of Health and Social Security, a Regional Agricultural Adviser and two Plant Nutritionists were also present.

A Senior Principal Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, with one of his colleagues attended two further meetings on the 5th July at Rochford and 24th July at Southend. At the former meeting a family doctor from Gt. Wakering was present as he had expressed concern about possible danger from lead poisoning due to the sludging operations at the farms. The local situation was aggravated by reports of the two cases of suspected lead poisoning. One of these was a confirmed case whose condition was almost certainly associated with his occupations through life involving lead, and in the other there was no foundation of rumours of lead poisoning, either as to symptoms or authentic blood analysis. Allegations about the water supply were made in certain quarters but these were without foundation. As is well known, the main supply of the Essex Water Company is mostly derived from river sources, but there are a number of boreholes in the area of supply which supplement the reservoir (river) supply at certain times of the year. One of these boreholes is at Barling, situated fairly near to the farms under discussion. A sample taken from this well on 15th February, 1972 was quite satisfactory, but due to public suspicion this borehole was taken out of supply during the summer (the main complaint was the taste, particularly in tea, but this was in no way harmful and was not related to the problem under consideration).

In July the Senior Principal Medical Officer said that in his opinion there was little risk to the public, although it was generally agreed that it would be unwise for young children to be housed on the farms because of the possibility of such children sucking soil stained fingers and picking up and eating sweets after being dropped on the ground.

After the completion of extensive sampling of soil, water and blood for heavy metals both by the Southend Corporation, the Essex County Council and my own department, Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Secretary of State for the Environment gave the following answer in the House of Commons to Sir Bernard Braine's question - "What assessment has now been made of the probable risk to public health arising from the presence of heavy metals in the soil at Ropers and Trumpions Farms due to the continued disposal there of sewage sludge ; and what is the result of his investigation of complaints by local residents of high levels of lead and cadmium in their blood".

Mr. Eldon Griffiths "My Department's medical advisers and the local Medical Officers of Health have completed a further examination and have advised me that :-

- a. There is no health risk to children or adults having access to the land. In some parts of the country the soil itself contains more lead in its natural condition.
- b. There is no evidence of any risk of fly borne infection from the trenching of sludge on the land.
- c. Investigations of the water supply have been made as there is some lead piping in this area. All have shown lead levels in water within the limit specified in the World Health Organisation international standard for drinking water.
- d. The Essex River Authority is satisfied that there is no drainage of polluted water from this area into the River Roach."

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is made throughout the District. The plastic bin liner system, introduced in April 1970, has continued, with success.

Following a Work Study Survey in 1970, a bonus scheme was adopted and put into operation during May 1971. Five refuse vehicles and one four-wheel drive vehicle for unmade roads, are in service and 26 men are engaged.

Disposal is by contract for 7 years at a sandpit at Barling, which commenced 1st July, 1970, at a charge of 72p per tonne. The weight of refuse disposed of during 1972 was 10,567 tonnes.

Bulky household articles are collected free of charge, and residents can bring any refuse to the Council Depot, or take it direct to tip for disposal, free of charge. Unwanted, or abandoned vehicles are removed, free of charge, by a local scrap merchant.

County Council roadside verges are regularly cleared of dumped rubbish, most of which, it is believed, is dumped by residents from outside the District.

When the bonus scheme commenced, the collection of waste paper for salvage was ceased by the collectors. During 1972 38 tons of mainly light iron were salvaged value £95.58

The Working Party, comprising nine local authorities in South Essex, has been continued in view of the Local Government Reorganisation in 1974.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

100 premises are registered and 98 use mechanical power. A total of 11 inspections were made, and fifty outworkers were registered. Full particulars under the Act are shown in the following tables :

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health :

	Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	11	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)			
Toys	4
Household linen	1
Wearing apparel	31
Plastic packaging	2
Basket making	1
Light engineering	10
Making of boxes	1

No contraventions of this part of the Act were reported

Headings that would normally show a NIL return have been omitted from the table.

There are four industrial estates in the District as follows :-

One in Hockley
One in Great Wakering
Two in Rochford

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 3,593 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1972.

Animal boarding	..	..	..	..	..	3
Camping and caravan sites	..	..	..	..	..	128
Civic Amenties Act	..	..	..	..	..	32
Clean air	..	..	..	..	..	72
Diseases of animals (Waste Foods)	..	..	..	..	..	12
Drainage and sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	212
Establishments for massage	..	..	..	..	..	3
Factories and outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	11
Food : Premises	..	..	..	..	..	98
Hawkers of	..	..	..	..	..	11
Imported food	..	..	..	..	..	104
Unsound food sampling	..	..	..	..	..	43
Hairdressing establishments	..	..	..	..	..	1
Housing : Demolitions	..	..	..	..	..	63
Improvement grants	..	..	..	..	..	18
Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	168
Housing survey	..	..	..	..	..	1,169
Infectious disease and food poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	142
Licensing Act (Clubs)	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	226
Noise abatement	..	..	..	..	..	54
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	113
Offices and shops	..	..	..	..	..	49
Pet animals	..	..	..	..	..	6
Petroleum storage	..	..	..	..	..	119
Port Health: Public Health (Ships)Regulations 1970	..	..	..	..	..	6
Pest control	..	..	..	..	..	383
Refuse collection and disposal	..	..	..	..	..	68
Scrap metal dealers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Slaughterhouse and meat inspection	..	..	..	..	..	198
Soil samples	..	..	..	..	..	13
Swimming pools	..	..	..	..	..	22
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	1
Water supplies and sampling	..	..	..	..	..	41

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The new Great Wakering Burial Ground adjoining St. Nicholas Churchyard, covering an area of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre in size, was formally Consecrated by the Rt. Rev. W. Neville Welch, Bishop of Bradwell, on Saturday 28th October, 1972 and at the same time a tablet was unveiled by Wm. Bentall J.P. in memory of his parents, and representing his family, the donors of the ground.

The new Burial Ground has four sections, each of 150 grave spaces, although only two sections were Consecrated. There are also 48 plots set aside for the interment of cremated ashes, each plot earmarked to receive four interments. The Burial Ground is reserved for parishoners only.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulations, 57 petroleum storage licences were in force in 1972, one for carbide of calcium, and 12 for petroleum mixtures. A total of 119 inspections were carried out.

PEST CONTROL

There were 134 notifications of rats and mice infestations during 1972 and 359 inspections were carried out. 24 visits were also made for other pests.

CLEAN AIR ACT

To date, the Council has not introduced any smokeless zones. New housing estates have central heating, mainly gas, electricity or oil, and during the past few years there has been a general conversion of coal burning appliances to smokeless fuel by householders.

During the year it was necessary to keep observations, and approach the owners on a number of occasions, re dark smoke emission. It was necessary to institute proceedings against the owners of a factory and a scrap yard. Successful prosecutions were taken and the fines were £25 plus £15 costs and £25 plus £10 costs respectively.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is an abstract from the annual report sent to the Ministry of Labour by the Chief Public Health Inspector :

Class of premises	Registered during year	Registered end of year	Inspected
Offices	1	72	10
Retail shops	2	156	37
Wholesale shops and warehouses	-	5	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	2
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
The number of employees were :-			
Offices	534		
Retail shops	571		
Wholesale shops and warehouses	50		
Catering establishments open to the public	27		
Canteens	7		
Fuel storage depots	9		
Total	1,198		

In the above total, 534 males and 664 females were employed. There were 49 visits made to registered premises during the year. Three accidents were reported and investigated. Court proceedings taken in one case resulted in a £20 fine with £10 costs.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During 1972, five licences were issued for the keeping of pets for sale under the above act.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Six licences were issued under the above Act, for the boarding of animals.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

One Chiropodist, Mr. L.R. Wheeler, 4 Somerset Avenue, Rochford, is licenced by the Essex County Council to practice from premises in the Rural District.

SWIMMING POOLS

Nine of the schools in the Rural District have their own swimming pool, and a suitable outfit for chlorination purposes is provided by the Education Authority. Regular tests are carried out by a master at each school whilst the pools are in seasonal use.

Ashingdon County Primary School, Main Road, Ashingdon.
Canewdon Endowed Primary School, Anchor Lane, Canewdon.
Doggetts County Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford.
Great Wakering County Primary School, High Street,
Great Wakering.
Greensward School, Greensward Lane, Hockley.
Holt Farm County Junior School, Ashingdon Road, Rochford.
King Edmund School Vaughan Close, Rochford.
Plumberow County Primary School, Hamilton Gardens, Hockley.
Riverside County Junior School, Ferry Road, Hullbridge.

HOUSING

At the end of 1972 the Council owned and managed 1,566 units of accommodation 236 of which were flats. 1,197 of these properties are post-war. During 1972 40 Council dwellings were erected.

In respect of private development 135 dwellings were completed during the year and a further 322 properties were under construction on the 31st December.

In respect of the Council's housing list 63 applicants were rehoused and of this number 21 had been the subject of a medical recommendation. For various reasons 42 applicants were removed from the housing list and during the year 140 applicants were added to the list. It is estimated that about 15% of the total housing applicants are in urgent need of rehousing. On the subject of pensioners, there were 130 applicants on the list for rehousing (out of a total of 742). 18% of all Council dwellings are specially provided for old people, although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number of 71 purpose-built units of accommodation where communal facilities, a bell warning system, and the service of a warden are provided. Details of this special sheltered accommodation for the elderly is as follows:

Grested Court, East Street, Rochford

4 double units and 14 single units

20 residents were accommodated on the 31st December, 1972.

Warden's flat also provided (Warden: Mrs. M. Healy). Opened 20th April, 1964.

Goodmans, High Street, Great Wakering

4 double units and 18 single units

24 residents were accommodated on the 31st December, 1972.

Warden's flat also provided (Warden: Mrs. Rose). Opened 11th October, 1970.

Pembroke House, Sutton Road, Rochford

10 double units and 21 single units

34 residents were accommodated on the 31st December, 1972.

Warden's flat also provided (Warden: Mrs. Dolan). Opened 23rd October, 1972.

The Council's Housing Department referred 53 applicants for medical assessment during 1972, with the following results:

Group 'A'	-	19	(50 points)
Group 'B'	-	15	(25 points)
Group 'C'	-	10	(10 points)
Group 'D'	-	6	(Nil)

Of the remaining 3 cases, all involved special circumstances which needed investigation.

During the year there was an increase in the number of previous cases which came up for re-assessment. 3 were regraded "A", 2 were regraded "B" and 1 was regraded "C". 4 other previous cases were also before the Department during the year, 1 involving a problem family, and another where a special recommendation was submitted for the premises to be rewired on a ring main due to the elderly occupants being at risk through inadequate heating (coal fires due to bronchitis and oil heaters due to fire risk).

One elderly lady, a Council tenant, was brought to my attention, having been in hospital for about a year on account of severe rheumatoid arthritis, being unable to cope in her bungalow in a wheelchair since her husband died. After investigation I recommended she be found a place in a sheltered unit where the services of a warden would facilitate her disability. At the end of the year she was still in hospital as a sheltered vacancy capable of taking a wheelchair had not become available.

Action under the Housing Acts taken during 1972 is summarised as follows :

Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	1
Unfit houses demolished (informal)	1
Unfit houses demolished (formal)	3
Unfit houses repaired	8
Improvements carried out under Grant Schemes:	
<u>Standard Grants</u>	
Applications received	26
Grants approved	3
Improvements completed	3

Discretionary Grants

Applications received	20
Grants approved	6
Improvements completed	7

Qualification Certificates

Applications received	18
Number refused	3
Certificates issued :	
Full Certificates (dwellings satisfying conditions)	2
Provisional Certificates	9

Common Lodging Houses

There are none in the District.

Caravan Sites

There are four privately owned residential sites in the District, providing for 530 caravans. These now have drainage and water laid to standings. Two are served by Council sewers and two by private installations. In addition, the Council own a site in Rochford which is gradually being run down, and at the end of the year 20 caravans remained on this site.

There are five privately owned sites for seasonal use, providing for 324 caravans. Town Planning consent was granted for a further site at Hullbridge, but no work had commenced by the end of the year.

During the year, 18 licences were granted for individual residential caravans, following Town Planning consent for a limited period.

Meat Inspection

The following is a summary of 613 food animals killed and inspected at the Rochford slaughterhouse during 1972 :

	<u>Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part</u>			
	Cattle excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	139	-	188	286
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	-	2	32
Percentage affected	24.5	-	1.1	11.2
Tuberculosis only:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1
Percentage affected	-	-	-	0.35
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	1	-	-	-

Slaughterhouse

One was licenced for the year and has continued in use by one butcher. There has not been any change in circumstances, and practically all slaughtering is done after 5 p. m.

Imported Food Regulations 1968 (Rochford Airport)

A regular pattern is emerging regarding importation, the food consists mainly of lettuce, grapes, chicory, tomatoes, strawberries and fruit juice and meat products from the Continent. The total weight of food imported during the year was 135 tonnes.

Of the samples of meat products taken two were unsatisfactory, and in one case the consignment of 497 kilos was condemned. The second of 422 kilos was returned to the manufacturers and the matter taken up with them. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was also notified of the occurrence.

The Services of a retired Public Health Inspector have been retained for out of hours inspection.

Unfit Food

During the year, 12 complaints of unfit food were received from residents, and investigated. Food handlers are constantly being reminded of the necessity for strict stock rotation. Proceedings were taken in the following case under Section 2, Food &

Drugs Act, 1955 as follows : Mouldy fruit pie - fined £25 plus £5 costs. Two other cases we re pending.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

There are 222 food establishments in the Rural District, and these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the above Regulations. All, to some extent, sell open food and suitable sinks and wash hand basins with hot and cold water supply are provided, together with soap and towels etc.

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No.</u>
Bakers	9
Butchers	15
Cafes & restaurants	10
Canteens: Industrial	9
School	17
Confectioners	29
Fishmongers	4
General provisions	58
Greengrocers	13
Licenced premises/clubs	50
Pickle factories	2
Unclassified	6

Unsound Food

All unsound food officially reported is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, except condemned meat and offal from the slaughterhouse, which is disposed of to processors of animal food.

During 1972, 1,384 lbs. and 114 tins of meat and other foods, 2,380 packets of frozen food were condemned, the former excluding meat at slaughterhouses.

Preserved Food

23 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods.

Hawkers of Food

21 persons are registered under the Essex County Council Act, 1952, Section 103, for the sale of food from a vehicle in the Rural District.

Ice Cream

There are 82 premises registered for the sale of ice cream in the District, but there are no manufacturers. There are nine hawkers from outside the District. No samples were taken during 1972.

Poultry Dressing Premises

There are none in the District.

PORT HEALTH

The Rochford Rural District Council is responsible as a Riparian Authority under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1970 for Port Health matters on the River Crouch (southern shore within the Rural District), as the area of the Port of London Health Authority terminates at Foulness Point at the mouth of the River. Baltic Wharf on Wallasea Island is the only Port concerned. The Port of London Health Authority is however responsible for the River Roach which whilst a tributary of the River Crouch within the Rural District has outlets through various creeks to the Thames Estuary/North Sea.

Shipping movements continued to increase during 1972 and a reprint of the Maritime Declaration of Health became necessary. The Harwich Pilot and the Shipping Agent are kept supplied with this form.

I give below a copy of the Annual Report on Port Health matters which has been submitted to the Department of Health & Social Security in respect of the year 1972.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT AS A RIPARIAN AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1972

Compiled in accordance with Form Port 20 issued by the
Ministry of Health, dated October, 1952.

SECTION I - Staff

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments Held
Dr. D. A. Smyth	Medical Officer of Health	3rd January, 1966	M. B. , B. S. , M. F. C. M. D. P. H. F. R. S. H.	Also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for the South East Area of Essex County Council
Dr. J. Buchanan	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st March 1972	M. B. , CH. B. , D. P. H. , M. F. C. M.	Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and Departmental Medical Officer for the South East Area of Essex County Council

H. Jepson	Chief Public Health Inspector	January 1947	M.A.P.H.I. M.R.S.H.	-----
J.H. Bullock	Public Health Inspector	October 1961	M.A.P.H.I.	-----
C.W. Riley	Public Health Inspector	July 1972	M.A.P.H.I.	-----

Office Address and Telephone Number of Medical Officer of Health : Public Health Department, 134 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex. Telephone; RAYLEIGH 6101

Telegraphic Address: ROCHELTH RAYLEIGH

SECTION II - Amount of Shipping Entering District during the year

76 ships involving 117 trips docked at Baltic Wharf, Wallasea Island from foreign ports during 1972. This information is based on Maritime Declarations of Health submitted by Ships Masters via the Customs Officers from Southend Airport who board all ships arriving. The total deadweight tonnage of this shipping movement was 54,262 tons. In addition a small number of the larger ships (1,500 - 2,000 tons) unloaded at the port who had already visited another British Port and submitted there their Maritime Declaration of Health. These are usually Greek or Rumanian ships bringing hardwood from Brazil.

Six ships were boarded and inspected by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy and three ships were inspected by Public Health Inspectors. No ships were reported as having any infectious disease on board during the voyage. The following is a summary of the 74 foreign ships berthing at Baltic Wharf during 1972.

Ships Unloading at Baltic Wharf during 1972

	<u>Ships</u>	<u>Dockings</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
Dutch	23	39	18,855
German	25	45	17,514
Russian	9	10	6,643
Swedish	3	4	2,277
Polish	5	7	1,915
Danish	6	6	1,262
Liberian	1	2	2,278
Spanish	1	1	886
Greek	1	1	1,268
German D.P.	1	1	1,428
Panama	1	1	562
	76	117	54,888

SECTION III - Character of Shipping and Trade during the year

- Passenger Traffic : Maritime Declarations of Health submitted from 24 ships revealed that 50 passengers were carried during the year. Generally these are relatives of the ships crew on a shopping trip.
- Cargo Traffic : According to the shipping agents, imports arriving at Baltic Wharf totalled 89,481 tons, all of which were forest products.
- Principal Ports from which ships arrive : Leningrad, Kotka, Kosko, Rauma, Galatz, Szczecin, Gdansk, Bergkvara, Lisbon, Kasko, Blankaholm, Hamina, Skutsgar, Haunka, Berghvard.

SECTION IV - Inland Barge Traffic

None

SECTION V - Water Supply

- (1) Source of supply for (a) district : Essex Water Company
(b) shipping: Mains water via a 2,000 gallon totally enclosed storage tank piped to the jetty. 50% of ships arriving take on water. Water in storage tank is kept 'moving' by being linked with a small 100 gallon tank serving the offices of the Shipping Agents.
- (2) Reports of tests for contamination: Daily tests of water going into supply taken by resident Chemist of the Essex Water Company - all satisfactory.
- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes : One sample of tap water was taken from the German ship "WERNER MEYBERG" in port on 25th January which was found to be satisfactory.
- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats and powers of control by the Authority : None.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1970

- (1) List of Infected Areas: Lists of Infected Areas received, as issued by the World Health Organisation, are scrutinised in the office of the Medical Officer of Health and instructions issued as necessary to the Shipping Agents to hold any crew until medical clearance can be given. Four ships arrived from Brazil (Yellow Fever) and one ship from the Black Sea area (Smallpox present at that time (April 1972)).
- (2) Radio Messages :
- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district : Nil.
- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon : Arrangements in force for Ship's Masters to send radio message to North Foreland or Humber Radio Stations with answers to questions 1-6 on page 1 of the Maritime Declaration of Health and such messages to be telephoned by North Foreland or Humber to Rayleigh 6101, Southend-on-Sea 77913 or Southend-on-Sea 557252.
- (3) Notifications otherwise than by radio : Instructions to Shipping Agents to notify by telephone the arrival of any ship which has not previously sent a radio message via North Foreland.
- (4) Mooring Stations : By arrangements with the Port of London Health Authority.
- (5) Arrangements for:
- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases: We stcliff Ward, Rochford General Hospital
- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts: By Public Health Staff as and when required.
- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles : Local arrangements as and when required with use of power vaporizing spray. Facilities for steam disinfection if required.

SECTION VII - Smallpox

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district : | Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford. |
| (2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance giving the name of Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews : | By special ambulance provided by the Greater London Council through the Essex County Ambulance Service. Essex County crews vaccinated every three years. |
| (3) Smallpox Consultants available : | Dr. W. T. G. Boul, M. B. E., "Tideswell", Westleton, Saxmundham

Dr. J. D. Kershaw, 4 Trinity Street, Colchester, Essex.

Dr. G. D. W. McKendrick, St. Ann's General Hospital, St. Ann's Road, London, N15, and Rush Green Hospital, Romford. |
| (4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox : | Official smallpox outfits despatched by express post to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London NW9. |

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease

Venereal Disease Clinics at Out-Patient Department of Southend General Hospital. Times of Clinics issued to Shipping Agents.

SECTION IX - Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships

None

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

None

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

None

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

This is not a Deratting Authority but arrangements were made for 2 ships to have their Deratting Certificate renewed by the Port of London Health Authority. One ship, whose Deratting Certificate had just expired, was visited by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances

None

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934 & 1948

The River Crouch, on which Baltic Wharf is sited (on south bank towards the mouth), forms the northern boundary of the Rochford Rural District. This same river forms the southern boundary of the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District and Maldon Rural District. In 1936 the Burnham-on-Crouch U.D.C. made an Order making it an offence to sell oysters for human consumption taken from its side of the river between Lyon Creek and Coleward Flat, unless they had first been subjected to processing or re-laid in clean water. This Order remains in force. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Fisheries Laboratory at Burnham-on-Crouch, have confirmed to me that as far as is known, no cultivation of oysters takes place in the Crouch in an area south of that specified in the Order, or indeed along the remaining length of the south shore abutting the Rochford R.D.

However, dredging for shellfish may be carried on virtually along the whole length of the River Crouch, the area extending $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles eastward from Hullbridge and any catches invariably being re-laid before sale. Shellfish beds are also in use adjacent to the north bank of the Crouch, west of Lyon Creek including Bridgemarsh Creek and the south shore of Bridgemarsh Island and between the west end of Bridgemarsh Island and Fambridge. Notices warning the public that untreated shellfish found on the south bank of the river are unfit for human consumption are currently displayed at selected points by the Rochford Rural District Council.

Diluted untreated sewage from the main sewer at Hullbridge is discharged into the River Crouch from the Pumping Station there, during times of prolonged heavy rain. Treated effluent is also discharged as a routine procedure into the Crouch west of Hullbridge from the Rayleigh Western Sewerage Works which abut the south bank of the river. For some years the effluent from these Works has been below standard due to the overloading of the Works but work on completely new Works adjacent to the existing Works was commenced in August 1972. Certain sections of these new Works will be phased into operation during 1973 and it is anticipated that the new Works will be fully operational by the end of 1974.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

On 27th July the West German ship "BODIL SCHMIDT" (800 tons) docked from Itajai, Brazil. Two West African stowaways were on board, the ship having called at Dakar en route. On 22nd August another West German ship "EINSWANDERSAND" (dead weight 2,900 tons) arrived from Antonina, Brazil with two Gambian stowaways, the ship having called in at West Africa en route.

In both cases the Deputy Medical Officer of Health boarded and certified that the stowaways were fit, the matter then being left in the hands of the Immigration Officer.

A member of the crew of the West German ship "FLETH" was admitted to hospital on the 16th August following a call from the ships' captain for the Medical Officer of Health to visit.

SECTION XVI - Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons
who have died on board ship from Infectious Disease

Nil.

SHELLFISH

A representative of the Port of London Health Authority started his investigations into the unsatisfactory state of the shellfish layings in the River Roach and the creeks known as Middleway, Paglesham Pool and Barling Hall Creek in March 1970 due to the overloading of Stambridge Sewage Disposal Works and the discharge of an unsatisfactory effluent into the tidal waters of the various waterways mentioned.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Port and City of London later wrote to all shellfish purveyors operating in the Rochford Rural District within the area of the Port of London Health Authority. In March, 1971 Dr. Swann advised me of his concern for the public health which could arise if the said shellfish layings were being contaminated by polluted river water. A programme of sampling and examination by the Fisheries Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food at Burnham-on-Crouch was then put into operation and carried on through both the summer and autumn of 1971. In all, 45 samples were examined, taken from between 2.4 and 5.2 miles from Stambridge Mill. The Officer in Charge of the Laboratory expressed his view that the results justify an order being made restricting the sale of shellfish from the area concerned.

In March 1972 Dr. Swann advised the owners of shellfish layings in the area of the River Roach and its tributaries, as follows - "My previous suspicions have been confirmed, in that the majority of oyster samples examined proved to be of unsatisfactory sanitary quality. In view of this, I must stress how important it is that you should make arrangements so as to ensure that any shellfish taken from layings in the River Roach are subjected to a process of cleaning or sterilisation prior to sale for human consumption."

In April 1972 Dr. Swann advised me it was his intention to advise the Corporation of London as the Port Health Authority that an Order should be drafted making the area of the River Roach, its tributaries and creeks a 'prescribed area', and asking for my comments and useful information. I replied that I was in the fullest agreement with this step. In September the Court of Common Council of the Corporation of London considered and accepted Dr. Swann's report in the matter. The Order, operative from 18th January 1973, was subsequently made on 14th December, 1972, as follows -

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934

ORDER made by the Common Council of the City of London, the Port Health Authority of the Port of London and Local Authority for the purposes of the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934.

IN pursuance of the powers conferred on them by the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934, the Common Council of the City of London the Port Health Authority of the Port of London and the Local Authority for the purposes of the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934, hereby make the following Order -

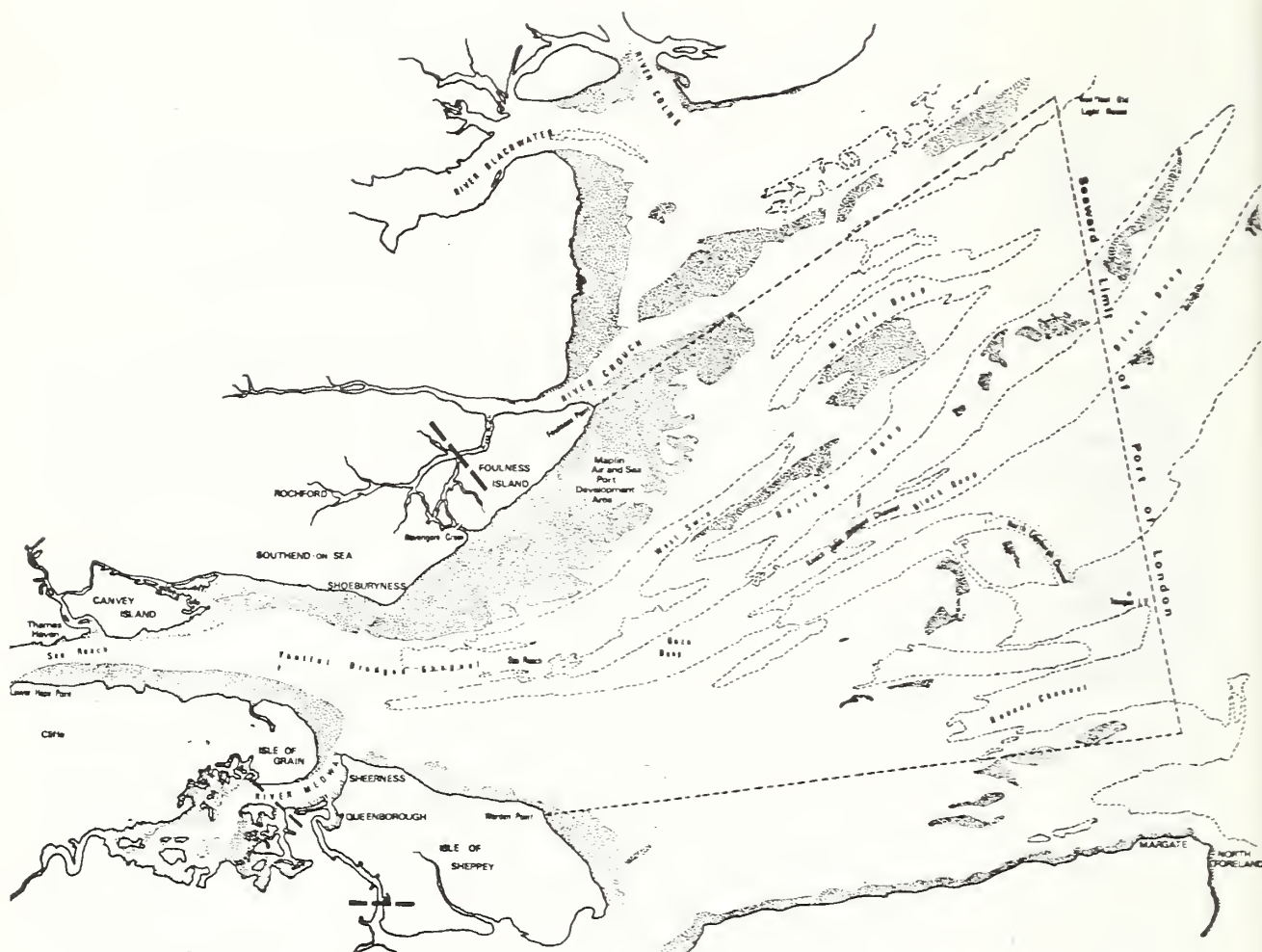
1. In this Order "laying" means a foreshore, bed, laying, pond, pit, ledge, float, or other place where shellfish are taken or deposited; and "prescribed area" means the public and private layings situated on the foreshores or waters of the Creek known as Havengore Creek, in the County of Essex, from its seaward limit at Havengore Head and all the creeks are waterways extending therefrom, including the foreshores or waters of the creeks surrounding Potton and Rushley Islands, Barling or Barlinghall Creek, and the River Roach as far as the town of Rochford and the foreshores or waters of the undermentioned creeks or waterways -

Paglesham Pool, Barton Hall Creek and Sutton Creek - also known as Fleet Hall Creek.

2. A person shall not sell or expose or distribute or offer for sale or have in his possession for the purpose of sale for human consumption any oysters, mussels or other molluscan shellfish taken from within the prescribed area unless such oysters, mussels or other molluscan shellfish have been -

- (i) subjected to a satisfactory process of cleansing at an establishment which is for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services for the purpose: or
- (ii) relaid in pure water for such period and in such places as may from time to time be approved for the purposes by the said Port Health Authority: or
- (iii) subjected to a process of sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six minutes in an apparatus which is for the time being approved by the said Port Health Authority : or
- (iv) subjected to any other process of sterilisation which is for the time being approved by the said Port Health Authority.

3. This Order shall come into operation on the 18th day of January, 1973.



SEAWARD LIMIT
of
PORT of LONDON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of infectious disease in the Rural District during 1972 was minimal, with the overall total of notified cases being the same as in 1971 (124).

The small number of cases of measles rather indicates an improvement in the uptake of vaccination. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was more than double those reported in 1971, but in keeping with current trends all cases were mild and uncomplicated. Chicken Pox, although not notifiable was troublesome during the year and 128 cases came to notice through school reports.

Infectious Hepatitis

There was a substantial rise in the number of cases during the year with 50% of cases occurring in the Hockley area. All were followed up and blood tests taken in some instances but no particular pattern of spread was noticeable. One elderly lady in Great Wakering was noticed from the death returns as dying in hospital from infectious hepatitis. I ascertained from the hospital that the lady had had a number of attacks over the past three years. She lapsed into a hepatic coma shortly after admission and failed to recover. Post mortem revealed an extreme destruction of the liver caused by the disease. The previous fatal case coming to notice was a girl of 15 at Canvey Island in 1969.

Food Poisoning

Although only six cases of food poisoning were formally notified during the year a total of 27 cases were revealed on investigation.

Four separate cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* were investigated, and in one instance minced beef, and in another a ham roll, may have been responsible, but no food was available for examination. Another case was ill on return from a holiday in Majorca. A further case of *salmonella typhimurium* was reported which was not considered to be food borne. This involved a food worker in a large multiple store in Southend and checking by stool specimen was undertaken by the firm automatically on the lady's return from holiday in Ibiza. At no time had she had symptoms. She was finally cleared and allowed to return to work. In this instance there was no means of knowing whether this lady was a carrier of infection before she went on holiday, but it was more likely she brought the infection back with her.

A number of infant children were ill with diarrhoea and vomiting following eating a school meal at a village school. Other children in the same school who had the meal were not affected, neither were some hundreds of secondary school children affected from the school where the meal was prepared. As well as specimens from the children, four specimens from food handlers were examined. Four of the children's specimens were positive to *staphylococcal aureus*, the same causal agent being isolated from the boiled beef and tinned peas.

Tuberculosis

The incidence of tuberculosis in Rochford continued to be below the national average (0.71 per 10,000 population as compared with 2.27 for England & Wales). Also the three new cases during 1972 were below the average locally for the past ten years which has been 5.3 cases. All the new cases were working adults in middle life. Two cases moved into the Rural District from other areas during the year. One lady in middle life died from tuberculosis during the year but she also had a heart condition. On 31st December, 1972 the register contained 131 names of residents notified as suffering from tuberculosis, but most of these would be largely recovered and only attending the Chest Clinic for occasional check ups.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year :

ROCHFORD

	Under					65 &		TOTALS
	1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	
Acute meningitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	6
Infective jaundice	-	1	4	2	1	9	3	20
Measles	10	19	16	1	1	-	1	48
Scarlet fever	1	11	21	4	2	5	-	44
Whooping cough	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
	13	33	43	7	6	17	4	124

APPENDIX "A"

Report by Miss D. M. Stammers, Area Social Work Organiser for the Canvey Island and Benfleet Districts.

An area social service office was opened at Thundersley in 1971 serving the districts of Canvey and Benfleet, the area which will be known as Castle Point in 1974. Services include many aspects of social work such as child care, help for the handicapped, mentally ill and elderly. Child care services include work with families, fostering and adoption.

During 1972 responsibility for registering and visiting child minders and pre-school playgroups was transferred to the Social Services Department. 22 playgroups and 61 child minders were registered and continuous contact maintained. The help and co-operation of the Health Department has been greatly appreciated.

There are two County Council Homes for the elderly in this area, Long View on Canvey Island (44 places) and Tyrells, Thundersley (40 places), 20 beds of the latter being reserved for elderly mentally infirm ladies. During 1972, 71 people from this area were admitted into County Homes, and 45 names were on the waiting list at the end of the year. We are fortunate in having two day centres - an occupational centre on Canvey for physically handicapped people, and in Thundersley one of the two County sheltered workshops for the mentally ill. This is not a permanent centre for trainees as its purpose is to enable people to return to work after training in a work-like environment.

Services for the physically, mentally, and visually handicapped continue, and help given under Section 45 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 has been expanded. Aids such as walking frames and bathing equipment have been issued to elderly people at risk, as well as to permanently and substantially handicapped clients, a total of 108 persons being assisted. The help of the Secretary of the Home Safety Committee has been invaluable.

Every effort is made to enable the elderly remain in their own homes. Our home help service continues to expand, complemented by voluntary aid. Canvey, South Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley old people's voluntary associations have increased their home visiting service to elderly and handicapped people, and we have also been pleased to receive help from younger members of the community including the Sixth Form College.

Report by Mr. A.C. Scott, Area Social Work Organiser
for the Rayleigh and Rochford areas

Since September 1971 the current areas of the Rayleigh Urban District Council and Rochford Rural District Council have been served, for social service purposes, from the Area Office in Rayleigh. This arrangement is therefore convenient for the area of the new Rochford District Council which will operate from 1st April, 1974.

An increasingly broad view has been taken of the social problems of the area with particular reference to the elderly and the disabled. More emphasis is being made on the domiciliary services, both statutory and voluntary. For example the departmental budget of the Home Help Service has increased considerably in recent years, and under the ten year plan recently submitted to the Central Government it is envisaged that this increase will continue. This, together with an increase in the intensity and effectiveness of voluntary visiting in some areas, such as that pioneered in Hockley and Hawkwell, has changed the nature and rate of admissions to some old peoples homes.

Services provided to both elderly and young disabled people, by virtue of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and Section 45 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 have been expanding. This is particularly true in the supply and maintenance of aids and equipment to those elderly people not formerly eligible for such assistance. In this way the Department is able to spread the cover formerly provided by the County Welfare Department and the Home Safety Committee so that in due course the assistance offered by the latter body, in the form of bath safety equipment for the elderly to prevent accidents in the bathroom, will be unnecessary. Membership of the Home Safety Committee has been of great value to the Department in providing better coverage for people in need. The figures shown below reveal that admissions to old peoples homes (Sweyne Court and Albert Jones Court) have changed little, although the waiting list for a place in such homes is considerably reduced. This means there is a better expectation of providing them with care than hitherto.

Regarding people who are registered as blind, partially sighted or physically handicapped (covering all age groups), those who are being visited under voluntary visiting schemes, and those who receive home help, accumulative figure for each person having received some kind of service throughout the year has restricted value. However, numbers are quoted of people receiving these services on average at any one time throughout the year, allowing for the changes caused by new referrals, new work, and those who no longer receive these services or require them for any reason. Of course, a total figure of all categories of disability is maintained on a County-wide basis and reported via the Social Services Committee.

The registration and visitation of Child Minders and Play Groups was transferred to the Social Services Department in 1972 and by the end of the year 27 Child Minders and 28 Play Groups were registered. After initial registration, continuous contact was maintained with these groups and individuals and the co-operation received has proved reassuring and helpful.

RAYLEIGH AREA

Registered blind and partially sighted currently directly assisted	83
Registered physically handicapped currently directly assisted	85
SWEYNE COURT : Admissions during the year	31
Waiting list	9

ROCHFORD AREA

Registered blind and partially sighted currently directly assisted	81
Registered physically handicapped currently directly assisted	122
ALBERT JONES COURT : Admissions during the year	25
Waiting list	8



SOUTH EAST ESSEX HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE
at Amelia Blackwell House, Canvey Island, (Sheltered Unit for the Elderly)
October, 1972

Report on activities of the South East
Essex Home Safety Committee for 1972

Committee Officers

At the Annual Meeting in October Mrs. E.D. Gallienne of Benfleet Urban District Council was unanimously re-elected as Chairman. The Vice Chairman, Mrs. E. White of Canvey Island, did not seek re-election owing to ill-health and Mr. L.G. Payne of Benfleet, representing the Canvey Island Chamber of Trade was proposed and elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman. Mr. R. Stripp was re-appointed as Hon. Secretary.

Jumble Sale Dangers

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents produced an excellent leaflet in the autumn of 1971 warning the public of unwise purchases at jumble sales and second hand shops.

With the co-operation of the Treasurers and Rating Officers Benfleet, Rayleigh and Rochford Councils agreed to distribute these with their Rate Demand. Accordingly 40,000 copies were purchased at a special discount price so that almost every house in those areas had the message. Distribution on Canvey Island, although not so effective, was however carried out through suitable outlets (Clinics, post-offices etc.).

Essex Home Safety Week

In co-operation with the Essex Home Safety Liaison Committee, various measures were taken to commemorate the special Week (18th-23rd September). Advertising was arranged on local buses and in selected traders premises throughout the area. 5,000 leaflets were distributed entitled 'Safety Begins at Home'. With the co-operation of the Essex County Fire Brigade, an Open Day was arranged at Hadleigh Fire Station. Publicity was given to the Home Safety Competition sponsored by the Liaison Committee and it was gratifying to find that a lady from Hullbridge in the Rochford Rural District won the £60 prize.

Visit to Building Research Station

A party of 30 Committee members and their guests visited the Building Research Station at Garston, Herts. on 23rd May. Apart from an excellent day weatherwise, the members found the visit of considerable interest from the Home Safety point of view.

National Home Safety Conference

The Hon. Secretary attended the Conference at Cheltenham in November and subsequently submitted a most comprehensive and useful report to the Committee.

Designed and Printed by
HOCKLEY PRINTING COMPANY LTD.
Units 2 and 3, 18 Sirdar Road, Rayleigh, Essex
